



**Brighter
Communities**
Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

The new name for Friends of Londiani



Annual Report **2016**

7,114

attended our
outreach clinics

9,129

students added to
our healthy schools
programme

6,122

people attended
health field days

11%

reduction in levels
of respiratory illness
reported across
region

Creating better futures

www.brightercommunities.org



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Chairperson's Message 2016

2016 began with a global commitment to 'leaving no one behind' as governments began implementation of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

We in Brighter Communities Worldwide are committed to the achievement of these goals over the next 15 years. We are working across many sectors, through many programmes, and with many partners to strive for the achievement of these goals to eradicate poverty, to bring justice & equality to all and to address climate change and ensure a sustainable planet for future generations.

2016 was an eventful year across the globe, with Brexit, the presidential election in America, growing instability and inequality, and the increasing refugee crisis.

Accessing services such as clean water, education and sanitation are key to a person's quality of life. Being deprived of these services deepens poverty and reduces people's wellbeing. In Kenya, stark inequalities exist. Some of these inequalities are highlighted here: 



- **16% of Kericho County residents have no formal education.**
- **22% of Kericho County residents have a secondary level of education or above.**
- **84% of households use their firewood as their main cooking fuel.**
- **11% of residents in Kericho County use electricity as their main source of lighting.**
- **39% of residents in Kericho County use improved sources of water.**
- **In Londiani and Kipkelion only 21% of women deliver babies in a health facility.**

Chairperson's Message 2016

Throughout this report you will read about how our programmes strive for a more equal and just society.

Sharing learning and experience through 2016:

- In August we began a **pilot project in Uganda** in partnership with the Adraa Agricultural College. *“Bringing health to communities”* aims to enable communities to have access to and an understanding of key health issues and lead healthier lives.
- We hosted the national **Menstrual Hygiene Day** in Kenya in May. This presented the opportunity to showcase our work on a national stage, which in turn has enabled us to engage further at a national level, and contribute to national policies.
- We played a key role in the development of the Kericho County Health **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** (2016 – 2022). This will enable us to monitor and evaluate key health indicators, and enable us to target our programmes more effectively in areas of most need.

Our team has changed during 2016. In Kenya, Mary Kabiru joined us as our Programme and Operations Manager. Caroline Chepngetich took up a new role as Health Project



Coordinator, and Joan Syombua Nthusi joined the team as the Girls for Girls Field Officer. In Ireland Carol Galvin joined the team as Development Analyst. I would like to welcome all to Brighter Communities Worldwide, and wish them the very best in their new roles.

In April we began our **rebranding journey** to enable us to grow and expand, to deliver our very successful programmes into other communities in Kenya and indeed other locations. We engaged all our stakeholders in this process.

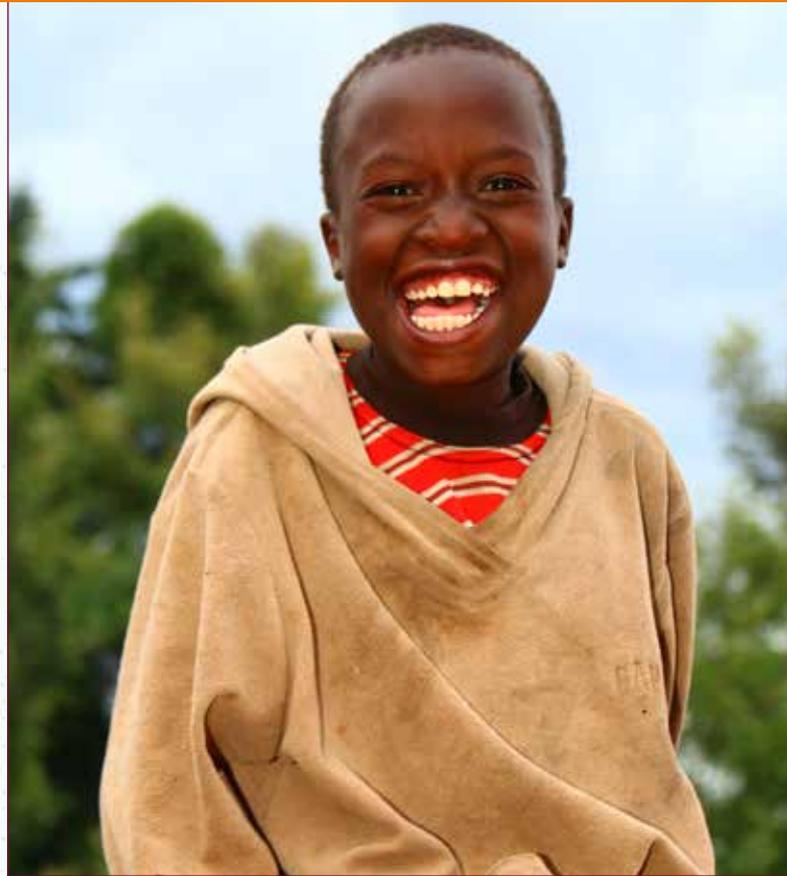


Chairperson's Message 2016

Brighter Communities Worldwide embodies everything that Friends of Londiani is known for – integrity, passion and togetherness.

In September, Sally O'Neill (Vice Chairperson) and I (Chairperson) finished our terms' of office. A special thank you to Sally for her contribution and support during her term. Anita Layden is our new Chairperson, and Kieran Curtis is our new Vice-Chairperson. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Anita and Kieran all the best as they take up their new roles.

I would like to thank our volunteers, supporters, family and friends for your continued support during the year. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors in Ireland, the Board of Management in Kenya, The Executive Committee, The Chief Executive Officer, and the staff for your passion, support and hard work during 2016.



We believe that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future. We invite you to join us in 2017 as we continue to partner with communities to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Kidney

Maria Kidney
Chairperson

Introducing Brighter Communities Worldwide

On 1 January 2017 our name changed to **Brighter Communities Worldwide**. **Brighter Communities Worldwide** embodies everything that Friends of Londiani is known for. Our core ethos is to work in partnership with communities, to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Our decision to rebrand reflects how we've grown and our aspirations for the future. We still exist for the same purpose: to enable individuals to become authors of their own development. We believe that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future.

Our vision is a world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures for all.

Our mission is to work in partnership with communities, to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Our values

Our values underpin everything we do, every decision we make and also help communicate the way we work and how we do things.

- **Integrity** – *We are an organization built on integrity and good governance with a track record of success.*
- **Passion** – *We work passionately in all that we do to realise our vision across communities.*
- **Togetherness** – *We work together with all our stakeholders; all programmes are based on community needs as identified by themselves.*



How we will achieve this

Brighter Communities Worldwide considers the whole community, enabling individuals and communities to be authors of their own development, building brighter communities for all. Our model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and uses a partnership-based approach to deliver relevant programmes to meet the needs of communities and individuals.

Creating brighter communities means ensuring:

- **Access to good, affordable healthcare**
- **Education to help people find a job and be able to articulate their needs**
- **An income that can sustain a family**
- **Healthier lives with a supply of clean water and better facilities**

Our values are based on the way we work:

- **As advocates** for people who don't have a voice
- **In partnership** with local people, officials, NGOs and governments
- Giving people the **tools** to build on what they already have
- **Building** on the traditional way of doing things to improve life for everyone
- **Working together** to *create brighter communities worldwide*

The cost of rebranding

For the last number of years we have worked with Kava Communications to support our marketing, graphics and digital needs.

The team at Kava Communications was excited to embark on the journey of growth with Friends of Londiani and kindly offered to develop the rebrand free of charge.

We would like to thank Kava Communications for their generosity and continued support.



Our Theory of Change

The change we want to see: As authors of their own development, the people with whom we work lead healthier lives and apply their increased education and knowledge to creating sustainable livelihoods and stronger communities

What we will achieve:



What we will deliver



How we will deliver



Partnerships



Community solutions (empowerment)



Equal access for all



Sustainability



People are central



Volunteerism



Gender



Alignment with national and global agendas

Working with people



Creating better futures

Better education –

Education to help people find a job and be able to articulate their needs



Improved healthcare –

Access to good, affordable healthcare



Clean water –

Healthier lives with a supply of clean water and better facilities



Thriving economy –

An income that can sustain a family





Community Healthcare Strategy (CHS)

Rural communities in Kenya face significant challenges accessing healthcare services that are traditionally found in regional centres. Brighter Communities Worldwide in partnership with the Ministry of Health supports health at a community level through the implementation of the Community Health Strategy and the Healthy Homestead – Healthy Village programme.

The Community Health Strategy is a community-led holistic approach to healthcare. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health in Kenya, and correlates with our Healthy Village model. It involves taking health to the community level through the formation of Community Units. Each Community Unit contains approximately 1,000 households managed by the Community Health Committee. Volunteer Community Health Workers also help, working alongside Community Health Extension Workers in health facilities.

A sample of activities carried out through the Community Health Strategy in rural communities include: Outreach Clinics, Field Days and Remote Emergency Care First Aid courses. These activities help to establish sustainable Level One Health Services in rural areas aimed at promoting dignified livelihoods throughout the country through decentralization of services and accountability. The community-based approach is the mechanism through which households and communities take an active role in health and health-related development issues.

Our Healthy Homestead – Healthy Village programme promotes the idea that if a homestead is healthy it enables a family to be healthy, resulting in a healthy community. There are a number of key elements to a Healthy Homestead which we encourage as part of the Healthy Village programme, these include: Space and Ventilation, Smoke-free cooking Environment, Safe Water Supply, Progressive Vector Control, Good Sanitation, Rubbish Disposal, Nutrition and Food Supply (Kitchen Garden), Improvement of Maternal and Newborn Health, and Income Generating Activities.



‘If access to primary healthcare is truly a basic human right, then primary healthcare must be brought to rural communities.’

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **4 new Community Units** were rolled out across the region. This brings the total number of trained community units in the region to **32**. The Community Unit structure brings health services closer to community members which means health issues are identified at source and action can be taken immediately – for example if an outbreak occurs in a community.
- **113 Outreach Clinics** were supported which bring services to remote areas providing access to communities. Services include immunisation, vitamin A distribution, Mother and Child Health (MCH) clinics, Reproductive Health Clinics, Malaria Treatment and Prevention. **7,144** people attended. Among them were **3,317** under-fives of whom **393** were fully immunized and **1,149** vitamin A supplements were given.
- **15 Field Days** were held across the region with **6,122** people attending. **2,810** vitamin A supplements were given out and **298** people were tested and counselled for HIV. Field Days enable people to access key health information on preventable diseases, water treatment, deworming, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Mother and Child Health services.
- **Remote Emergency Care** is a two-day First Aid course for remote settings. It focuses on basic first aid administration, transferring patients using locally available transport. During 2016, two courses were hosted for **55** Community Health Workers. Another course took place in order to train a further **17** people in the region.



Healthy Schools

The Healthy Schools programme is a joint partnership between Brighter Communities Worldwide, school management, staff and students, the local Ministry of Education and the local Ministry of Health. It utilises the concept underlying the World Health Organisation's initiative of the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA). The aim is to reduce environmental risks to children's health that arise from the settings where they live, learn and play by providing knowledge, increasing will, mobilizing resources, and catalysing urgent action.

This is achieved through a programme that provides training for teachers and increases students' awareness of environmental health issues through classroom studies. A student HECA club is formed in each school, which aims to transfer knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and also in the wider community.

Based on a seven-step cyclical programme, schools work towards one of three levels of Bronze, Silver and Gold. Upon attainment of the criteria of that level, schools are awarded a HECA flag to be flown with pride and as a symbol showing that particular school is a healthy place. During 2016, assessments were carried out in all the HECA schools. Each school was evaluated according to HECA criteria for each award level.

Many schools in Kenya, especially in rural areas, do not have adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities. Improvement of school hygiene, sanitation and water infrastructure is a key component of our Healthy Schools programme and we support construction projects in schools across the region.

We held events for Global Hand Washing Day in 14 schools involved in the programme, where children learned that everyone can protect their families and their communities through handwashing with soap. 5,267 students took part in these events.

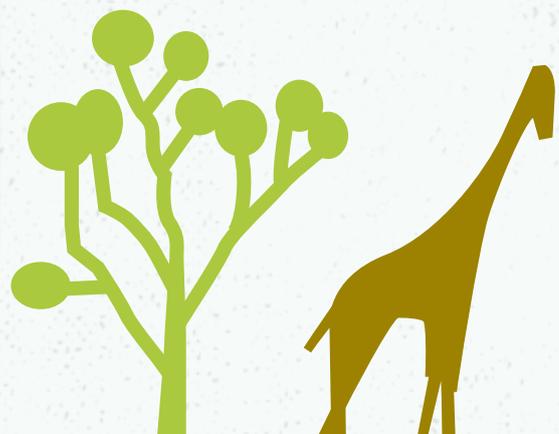


COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **30** new schools were added to the Healthy Schools programme bringing the total number of schools involved to **198**. The number of students gaining access to this programme is now **68,612** across both primary and secondary schools.
- **120** additional teachers were trained to run the programme and each of the **30** new schools set up a HECA committee involving parents, school management and teachers.
- In total **26** HECA flags were awarded to schools in the programme: **20** Bronze, **5** Silver and **1** Gold.
- **4** latrines/washroom structures were constructed in **4** schools, **2** water tanks (30,000 litres) were constructed in schools, and **5** smokeless stoves were installed in **2** schools. All these infrastructure projects were implemented using cost sharing of up to **50%** with the schools.

'Make Handwashing a Habit.'

Global Handwashing Day is an annual global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.





Water is Life

With a population of 46.7 million, 37% of Kenyans still rely on unimproved water sources, such as ponds, shallow wells and rivers, while 70% of Kenyans use unimproved sanitation solutions. This translates into more than 17.3 million people using unimproved water sources and 32.7 million people using unimproved sanitation facilities (WHO/UNICEF, 2015). Access to clean water and better sanitation facilities continue to be identified as priority needs by the communities that we work with.

We are supporting integrated programmes in all WASH fields; WASH is the collective term for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Due to their interdependent nature, these three core issues are often grouped together while they are separate fields of work, each is dependent on the presence of the other. For example, without toilets, water sources become contaminated; without clean water, basic hygiene practices are not possible. Our work in this area includes building new latrines and washrooms in schools, running hygiene programmes in schools and homes and new water projects for communities.

We support and promote water projects that will improve health indicators. That in itself is no surprise; safe water is obviously connected with our aim of helping to improve health in the area. But for us safe water means much more. It also boosts education. That's because the more efficient – and more local – a clean water supply, the less travel is needed to find it and the less schooling is missed. There's an economic element too. If less time and energy is wasted, business efficiency is improved. And if visitors can expect clean water and sanitation then economically useful projects like sustainable tourism become more viable.

As ever, of course, our approach is cooperative. Communities educate and advise us as much as we and our volunteers help them. After all, what works for one community does not always work for another, for social, economic and even geological reasons. Therefore community water meetings are held, where project visibility and sustainability are discussed, and ideas are shared. We work closely with the Ministry of Water, taking their advice and partnering with them to raise funds for projects. In the sub counties of Londiani/Kipkelion we have been fortunate in being able to work with communities to develop gravity-fed water projects, these being far more sustainable than pumped schemes. Current and past projects supported by us have potential to serve almost 30,000 people.



‘Improved water supply and sanitation, and better management of water resources, can boost countries’ economic growth and can contribute greatly to poverty reduction.’

World Health Organisation

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Phase 5 of the Nduro Water Project to bring water from the source storage tank to Ngorimori Centre was completed during 2016, and officially opened in November. Approximately **8,000** people will benefit from this phase.
- **6** latrines/washroom structures for girls were constructed in various schools in the region. These give access to improved sanitation facilities to the **1,541** girls currently attending those schools and to future pupils.
- **3** water tanks were constructed in schools in 2016, one each in Baraka Secondary School, Chepseon Girls’ Secondary School & Murgut Primary School. These tanks will serve a present school population of over **1,000** and more in the future.





Economic Empowerment

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Economic Empowerment programme aims to work with communities to increase their incomes, and subsequently, their standard of living. The projects and courses we develop to support and improve life in the region include a focus on business. However, whatever the focus, the courses we offer are always appropriate, useful and in tune with the needs of the region and the development aims we and the communities have agreed upon together.

Business training courses are run for people who want to increase their knowledge and awareness of business planning. The course covers topics ranging from accounting to business concepts and principles. As well as increasing knowledge around entrepreneurship within communities, the course assists people in setting up a new business or improving an existing one thus contributing to the improvement of economic activity in the region.

Through partnerships with local financial institutions in the region we create important connections for community members. These financial institutions are an integral part of the business course, and their representatives present their services and opportunities for community members. The business course breaks down these barriers for community members and enables them to access finance.

A community-based **Sustainable Tourism Project** is another way in which we aim to raise the economic activity in the region. A community campsite has been developed and we have several trekking routes in the region. The goal of the project is to provide employment and financial benefit to the local communities; that in turn raises the standard of living, encourages gender and social equality, and biodiversity conservation.

‘Welcoming visitors to share our natural, social and cultural assets; to partner with us; to learn with us and to realise our dream of healthy, strong communities now and in the future.’

Brighter Communities' definition of Sustainable Tourism.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- During the last 12 months, **4** business courses were facilitated by Brighter Communities Worldwide with **90** communities represented. These courses give business knowledge to community members.
- **Several groups** of trekkers stayed at the campsite during 2016 and enjoyed the local hospitality and the excellent trekking routes in the area.



Smokeless Stoves (Improving Health, Creating Economic Opportunity)

Around 3 billion people cook and heat their homes using open fires and simple stoves; this leads to 4.3 million people a year dying prematurely from illnesses attributable to the household air pollution caused by the inefficient use of solid fuels for cooking (WHO, 2012). A three-stone open fire is traditional in a lot of homesteads in the region. Cooking over open fires is a serious health hazard as smoke inhalation causes respiratory illnesses and problems with eyes. Women and children under five are especially at risk as they are the people who spend much of their day in the kitchen – the risk of injury through burns on open fires is also huge.

The smokeless stove design we use includes a chimney which extracts the smoke from the kitchen. It is also far more economical in its use of timber which is the main source of fuel in rural Kenya. In rural communities, gathering fuel is traditionally women's work and often involves long hours away from home. This prevents women and girls from participating in other productive, educational, or income-generating activities.

A smoke-free cooking environment is a key element of a Healthy Homestead so we encourage homesteads to install a smoke-free stove which is fuel efficient and healthier. Each smokeless stove takes just hours to build using locally available materials and a manufactured metal chimney. We work in partnership with the Ministry of Health to train local Community Health Volunteers to become smokeless stove installers.

Economic activity is increased in the region because stove installers are able to obtain an extra income; local traders provide materials to build the stove and women have more time to engage in income-generating activities as a smokeless stove uses 70% less wood than a traditional fire. There is also an overall increase in income in the region because people are healthier so less money is spent on medication.



‘The smokeless stove programme has an impact on economic empowerment – both directly and indirectly.’

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Over **200** smokeless stoves were installed in homes across the region.
- The rate of respiratory diseases in the region decreased by **11%**.
- **23** community health workers were trained as stove installers.
- **5** institutional smokeless stoves were built in schools.
- On average there was a **27%** reduction in the cost of firewood per household after the installation of a smokeless stove.





Keeping Girls in School

Girls in Kenya can miss up to one week a month of school (up to 45 days a year) due to inadequate menstrual health management (MHM). It's a multi-dimensional problem: inadequate infrastructure, access to and affordability of sanitary products, hygiene and knowledge. Our Girls for Girls programme views the education of girls and young women as a fundamental human right. Girls for Girls works with stakeholders to enable girls to remain in school so they may graduate, and enables women beyond school to reach their full potential.

The Girls for Girls programme integrates education, health and economic empowerment initiatives to enable girls to stay in school. It includes:

1. A modularised education programme delivered by trained facilitators
2. Peer learning and mentoring
3. Access to sanitary products (low cost, various options, available each month)
4. Income generation that includes: training, seed funding, mentoring and support
5. Provision of infrastructure ('girl-friendly' latrines and washrooms)



During 2016, a two-day workshop was held in March for the 11 new schools joining the Girls for Girls programme on menstrual health and hygiene. The main objective of the workshops was to develop a team of skilled trainers who will be able to support girls in the programme as they learn about menstrual health hygiene. In May a workshop for

teachers from each of the Girls for Girls schools was held to discuss the sustainability of the programme. Topics for the workshop were based on income generation. Challenges and lessons from other schools implementing the programme over the last few years were shared.

We also launched a new **savings scheme** for girls as another way of sustaining the programme. This will give the opportunity for schools to contribute to the sustainability of the programme, and provide an alternative to setting up an income-generation project.

‘Girls for Girls is important to me because it empowers girls and gives us a bright future.’

A participant surveyed about the programme.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 11 new schools were added to the Girls for Girls programme in 2016. This brings the total number of schools to **41**, with **2,011** girls benefiting from the programme.
- In a 2015 survey, **82.6%** of girls in the programme said that they did not miss any days of school since they were given the sanitary kits; **77.1%** of girls said that they have seen a change in attitude and understanding towards menstruation among their family and community since they got involved in the Girls for Girls programme.
- The intergenerational impacts of Girls for Girls will be seen through **more** educated and economically empowered women who in turn will seek the same benefits for their children.
- **6** new ‘Girl-Friendly’ latrines/washroom structures were constructed in **6** schools and **2** new water tanks were constructed in **two** schools involved in the programme. **All these infrastructure projects were implemented using cost sharing of up to 50% with the schools.**



Menstruation Matters

Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrated annually on 28 May is a global platform that brings together nonprofits, government agencies, the private sector, the media and individuals to promote **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)**. Menstrual Hygiene Day raises awareness of the challenges women and girls worldwide face due to their menstruation and highlights solutions that address these challenges.

We were given the honour of hosting the national day of celebration of Menstrual Hygiene in Kenya in 2016 due to the work we do in this field. The event was attended by Menstrual Hygiene Management partners from across the county, representatives of the Ministry of Health at a national and county level, and local community members. It gave us the opportunity to showcase our Girls for Girls programme on a national level, and it gave the students and teachers the opportunity to discuss menstrual health issues and challenges through experiential learning and games. Activities on the day included storyboards on the physical development of boys and girls, maths challenges to explore the cost of menses and charting the challenges menstruating girls face personally and within their families and communities.

2016 also saw the launch our **Community Menstrual Hygiene Management programme**. A pilot village was selected and sensitisation took place between June and July. During this period 13 communities were visited, information disseminated and MHM challenges discussed. In July two community MHM workshops took place in Londiani. The workshop dealt with many issues relating to menstruation including: awareness-raising on issues, myths and taboos, stigmatization and the challenges associated with menstruation. Our plan going forward is to integrate MHM across all our programmes and involve men, women, boys and girls in the programme.

‘Menstrual Hygiene Day will help to break the silence and build awareness about the fundamental role that good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) plays in enabling women and girls to reach their full potential.’

Mission of MH Day.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Over **2,000** people from across **42** schools and **22** community units that we work with attended a national event on Menstrual Hygiene Management hosted in their area. This was a big step to breaking the stigmas around menstruation.
- **67** women of all ages participated in our first two workshops on MHM based in the community.



Ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to *'all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons'* (WHO). FGM/C is a violation of girls' and women's human rights and is condemned by many international treaties and conventions, as well as by national legislation in many countries, including Kenya.

The overall aim of our FGM/C Abandonment programme is to transform the social convention of cutting girls and encourage the mass abandonment of the practice, which is infringing on girls' human rights and replacing it with a safer culturally appropriate alternative. There are five parts to this programme, including: a community-based education programme, provision of reproductive information and educative materials, Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) programme, and Working with Health Workers & Positive Public Affirmation.

During 2016, events were organised for the programme facilitators including an Annual Learning seminar, feedback sessions and planning sessions. These facilitators are voluntary and engage with the programme throughout the year. We work with these facilitators, community leaders, and Community Health Workers to identify *'hot-spot'* areas throughout the region. These are areas where girls are at risk of FGM/C and once identified mobilisation and sensitisation events were held there. Mobilisation and sensitisation events inform communities about the negative impacts of FGM/C and encourage them to use ARP as a culturally sensitive option instead.

The ARP courses are held over five days and include a range of topics. On completion of the course the girls will graduate through a *'coming of age'* ceremony. Power brokers (senior figures in a community including chiefs, community leaders, elders, pastors, and members of the County Assembly) will be invited to the graduation ceremony. During the graduation ceremony the girls will participate in activities including songs, plays, and dance to highlight what they have learned and to inform the community that they have abandoned FGM/C and want to continue in education.



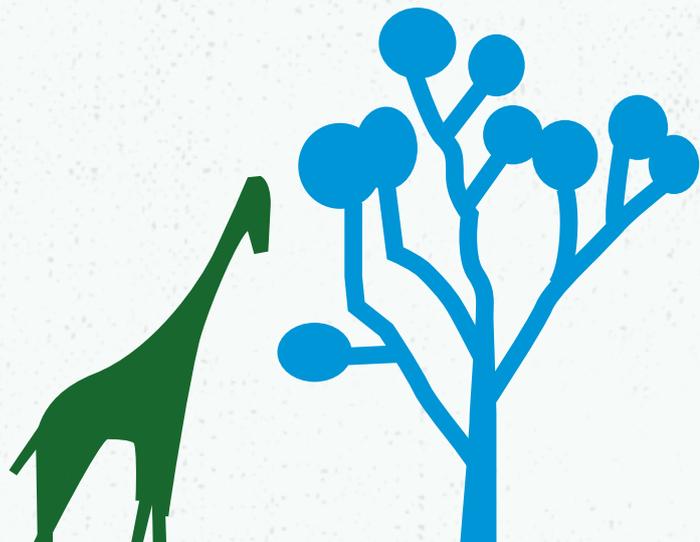
'I feel empowered because it is real, what we have learnt and from the course girls will have better futures.'

2016 ARP course participant.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- From mid-November through till the end of December, **44** Alternative Rites of Passage courses were held for varying numbers of girls. In total, **2,142** girls attended an ARP course in 2016.
- **26** new facilitators (**12** males and **14** females) were trained on how to run an Alternative Rites of Passage course in 2016.
- Over the duration of all the courses, **340** power brokers in communities and **4,640** community members attended to support girls at the **44** Alternative Rites of Passage graduation ceremonies which were held at the end of each course.
- **207** sensitisation events and **16** mobilisation events took place throughout the year.





Strengthening Maternal and Newborn Health

The overall aim of our Maternal Health programme is to work with communities to encourage more mothers to give birth in health facilities and to attend antenatal clinic visits. It is a slow process as traditionally, especially in rural areas, women gave birth at home. Evidence shows that by women attending antenatal clinics they are more informed about pregnancy; issues that may occur during pregnancy, family planning, and are more likely to deliver in a health facility, which in turn leads to improvement in maternal health indicators.

Our Maternal Health programme focuses on three levels:

1. **Community** – Through a maternal health module in our Life Skills course, we encourage community members to attend ante-natal classes and give birth in a health facility;
2. **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** – As part of the Community Health Strategy, CHWs are trained in maternal health to improve their skill in recognizing abnormal birth and initiating early referral;
3. **Health Practitioners** – We run courses on Essential Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EONC) in partnership with the Ministry of Health which uses a syllabus from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London to improve the skills of health workers in the region.

In July 2016, the official opening of the Maternal Health Shelter took place. The purpose of the shelter is to provide a place where expectant women who live in remote areas can stay before giving birth in Londiani Sub County Hospital. Women can travel to the shelter a few days before birth so that they are in 'the right place at the right time'. The shelter is free of charge to the expectant woman, who is supported by a member of their community. The women bring their own local food to the shelter where cooking facilities are provided. They will have access to clinical services should and when the need arises. We supported the building of this shelter with funding from Irish Aid.



‘Most obstetric complications could be prevented or managed if women had access to a skilled birth attendant – doctor, nurse, midwife – during childbirth.’

WHO



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- There was a **2%** growth in the number of births taking place in facilities in the region (facility birth rate is now **20.43%**). This continues the upward trend in the region that we began to see last year.
- **2** EONC courses were run during the year training **33** health professionals. This improvement in skills will contribute to improvements in indicators including the Perinatal Mortality Rate and the Caesarean Section Rate.
- The Perinatal Mortality Rate (PMR) was reduced by **46%** in Londiani Sub County Hospital.
- **61%** of all facility births in the region take place in Londiani Sub County Hospital and the remaining **39%** of births are distributed among various health facilities throughout the region.
- **8** Maternal Health courses for Community Health Workers were completed with a total of **285** participants trained.



Strengthening Communities

Brighter Communities Worldwide has run a **Life Skills course** since 2002. The course is designed to assist people facing life challenges and to help them make complex decisions about their sexual and reproductive health as well as to develop and sustain positive health behaviours. The impact of this course is far reaching as it is often the first time that communities work with us or work together. Relationships are built and issues are aired. There have been a number of community groups formed in the aftermath of a course that have made a real impact on their communities.

The course is run over five days, and it has been adapted over time to suit the needs of various communities. The course covers topics such as HIV/AIDS awareness, treatment and prevention; relationships; maternal health; mental health and good nutrition. The course can be adapted to be appropriate for different age groups and communities depending on their needs.

The goal of Brighter Communities Worldwide's Education Bursaries programme is to improve access to strengthened formal and informal education opportunities for community members. We have run this programme since 2002 to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to successfully complete their education. Over the years the majority of the students supported have been in secondary school but we have also supported students in primary schools, polytechnic colleges, third level and short technical courses.

When a student is selected for a Brighter Communities Worldwide Bursary, they are supported for all the time that they are at school or college. The level of payment made is determined based on the funds available, as well as any additional payments made on behalf of the student by family members or other bursary programmes. Since the programme started in 2002 a total of 2,331 students have been supported.



‘...because of the bursary scheme, I have been able to fulfil my dream of completing my third level studies in Electrical Engineering and getting employed right out of school – a thing that would not have happened if I had not been educated. I am now able to support myself, my family and maybe others in the near future. Thanks a lot.’

D. Koech; Bursary Recipient 2016.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- We continued to support **64** students on our bursary programme in 2016.
- Life Skills courses were rolled out in **12** locations across the region with a total of **392** people attending a course.
- There was an increase of **7%** in the number of people accessing HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) services.



Uganda

In January, representatives from Brighter Communities Worldwide travelled to Adraa Agricultural College in Offaka Sub County, Northern Uganda to learn about their development programme and discuss a potential partnership and pilot project. During this visit, a partnership was agreed between Brighter Communities Worldwide and Offaka Development Programme (based in Adraa Agricultural College).

In February, members of the Offaka Development Programme travelled to Londiani to learn about the programmes implemented by Brighter Communities Worldwide.

The result of the exploratory visit and ongoing discussions was an agreement to develop a pilot project in four villages in Offaka Sub County. The project is called *'Bringing Health to Communities'* and aims to improve the health of those living in the pilot communities.

In August, a team from Brighter Communities Worldwide travelled to Adraa Agricultural College to deliver workshops to representatives from the four pilot villages, local government representatives and members of the Offaka Development Programme staff team. The workshops included an introduction to several Brighter Communities Worldwide programmes including Healthy Villages, Life Skills Peer Education, Healthy Schools, Girls for Girls, and information around the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

In November, a workshop was held on Healthy Villages, and a number of committees were set up including a Steering Community and two Centre Committees. Training was offered on all aspects of the Healthy Village, and initial environmental reviews were undertaken. The project was officially launched in two centres: Pajo and Anaysai.

This is the first time that Brighter Communities Worldwide has delivered its programmes outside of Kenya, and we are looking forward to the journey ahead in 2017.



'The hard work and commitment of the facilitators has given very great hope for a better Offaka Sub County.'

Participant in August workshop



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **40** people participated in the workshop in August to introduce themselves to Brighter Communities Worldwide community development programmes.
- **65** people participated in the workshop in November where they learned about Healthy Villages and how to create Healthy Homesteads.



Development Education

Brighter Communities Worldwide Schools Network – Our Schools Network is made up of schools in Ireland linked with schools in Kenya. The network is part funded by the Irish Aid WorldWide Global Schools who provide a range of supports for development education initiatives at secondary school level.

During 2016 the schools were involved in exploring the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and how their actions can help in achieving these goals. During the year the schools had visits from our staff to hold classroom workshops. A student workshop was held jointly in Ireland and Kenya around the theme of the Global Goals and included a live Skype link between both countries. Teachers had training in development education methodologies.

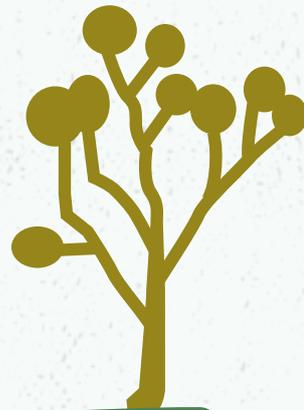
In April, four Kenyan teachers came to Ireland on an exchange visit to their partner schools. They learned about the Irish culture, society and education system and their visit included attendance at the annual WorldWide Global School conference.

Global Citizen Award – We are a partner of the Global Citizen Award and promote it amongst our volunteers as part of their pre-departure and return volunteer training. It is a personal development award that enables volunteers to share their overseas volunteering experience and help raise awareness of global issues in Ireland. It's an opportunity to reflect on the overseas experience and find ways to continue to make a difference to global justice issues at home.

Travel with Purpose – In February we hosted a week-long event in Kenya alongside our partners Out of the Box. Participants from Kenya, Uganda, Ireland and Lebanon learned about sustainable change through partnering. They visited some of our programmes in Healthy Schools and Londiani Sub County Hospita, attended Field Days and worked with community members to install smokeless stoves. Participants learned about partnering for sustainable change while seeing real change in action in Londiani.

‘My visit to Ireland in 2016 expanded my mind to see the world in a different way. We are all the same whether Irish or Kenyan – if we want to improve our lives we all have to work for what we want. This has made me more ambitious to follow my life goal of education because I believe education changes lives.’

Caroline Cherotich, Schools Network teacher.



ADVOCACY:

We are supported by the following partners:



2016 Volunteers

Volunteers in Kenya – Many people from the local communities we work with in Kenya volunteered their time and shared their skills throughout 2016. Many of our programmes require the support of volunteers to run effectively and efficiently. The Community Health Strategy works through volunteer Community Health Workers. Local volunteers assisted in facilitating courses such as Life Skills, Rescue & Emergency Care and the Alternative Rite of Passage course. Parents and teachers volunteered to support the Healthy Schools and Girls for Girls programmes.

Overseas volunteers – During 2016 we had a team of ten volunteers in Kenya on a Harambee project in July and another team of six in November. Harambee is a Swahili word we use to describe our volunteer projects and it means *'working together'*. The volunteers worked alongside local community members to help facilitate Life Skills courses, Business Training courses and Remote Emergency Care courses. They helped run a community Menstrual Hygiene Management workshop, with installation of household smokeless stoves, and hiked on the sustainable trekking route.

The volunteers included medical students from NUI Galway who were learning about medicine in a resource-poor setting. The experience they gained was in both community and clinical health work. They supported the training of health workers in EONC, field days, outreach clinics and they spent time working in Londiani Sub County Hospital, Kericho County Hospital and a community pharmacy.

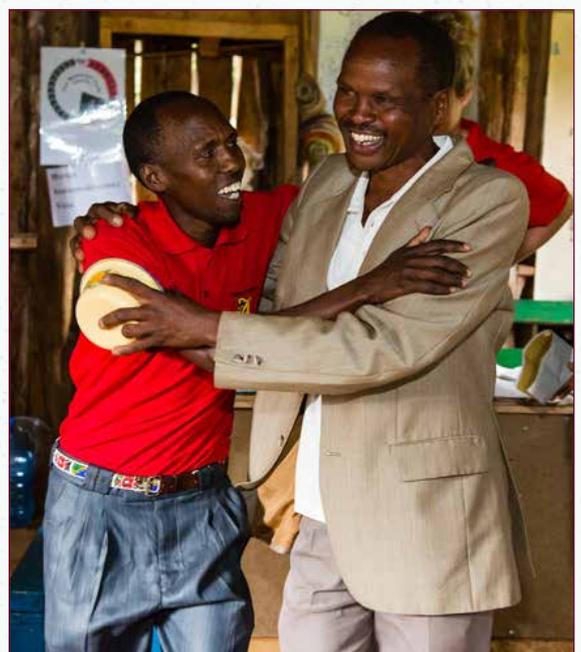
We also had a student from the UCC International Development and Food Policy degree programme on placement between Ireland and Kenya. The Essential Obstetrics and Neo-natal Care (EONC) programme benefited from an Irish volunteer with specific skills in that area who spent two weeks in Kenya helping with the training of health workers.

Volunteers in Ireland – Our ambassador programme is about volunteers who support us on a regular basis by raising awareness of the work that we do, promoting Harambee projects based on their own experiences and helping with fundraising events. During 2016 we had volunteer support in our Irish office helping with administration, organising a Golf Classic Mountain Challenge, Kenya Ball and Christmas craft fairs. Volunteers who have been on Harambee helped with training of new volunteers and we had volunteers involved in the facilitation of our Schools Network student workshop. We also engaged with the Comhlámh Volunteering & Development Education working group with the help of a Dublin-based volunteer.



‘It’s a brilliant and enlightening experience with some of the most amazing people! I’m learning so much! The people here are so inventive and resourceful and I’m so grateful to be part of this experience.’

Susie Quinn, 2016 Harambee volunteer.



Partnership is Key

Partnering with Communities – Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that partnerships are fundamental to the long-term sustainability of its interventions. To this end, Brighter Communities Worldwide has established and maintained numerous partnerships in the regions where it works. We held several partner meetings in 2016, the purpose of which is to keep updated with all partner activities and enable partners to feedback on various programmes.

In March we held a Partnership Seminar in Londiani where we met with representatives of the communities in which we work. It gave an opportunity to evaluate the work done during 2015, and to plan the work for 2016. Communities complete an assessment beforehand, and this feeds into the planning sessions. Seminars such as this provide a great way for Brighter Communities Worldwide to assess its impact and work with communities to complete a needs assessment for each community.

Engaging with the Corporate Sector – In 2016 we engaged in a development education project with the corporate sector when we ran a one-day workshop for VMWare in Cork to explore how economic empowerment comes about through our programmes in Kenya and for the employees to share their skills and knowledge to help develop our business training course in Kenya. Staff from VMWare helped with the preparation for Christmas craft sales as part of their citizen philanthropy programme.

We have a long-standing relationship with Aspira, a specialist Project Management and Enterprise IT Solutions services organisation, based in Cork. They have supported our work for many years and are now working with us on improving our IT solutions and data network.

Moneenatieve Windfarm Ltd in Co. Roscommon has been engaged with our organisation for many years. They continued their support for our education bursaries programme in 2016.

We have a regular donor who is an employee of Apple in Cork. She donates through the Benevity Community Impact Fund and her monthly donation is matched by Apple.

Collaborating with other NGOs – Brighter Communities Worldwide have been working since 2011 with Friends of Kipkelion, a UK-based charity. Friends of Kipkelion share the same aims and values as Brighter Communities Worldwide and both organisations have developed a strong partnership. During 2016 Friends of Kipkelion continued to provide support and capacity across a number of programmes including FGM/C Abandonment, Girls for Girls, Healthy Schools and the Uganda pilot.

Working with Government and Embassies – Throughout 2016, we continued our engagement with various Government Ministries in Kenya including the Ministries of Health and Education. We were also honored to welcome the Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Richard Opembe to our office in Midleton in September.



Brighter Communities Worldwide Partnership Policy includes:

- A shared vision of development
- Mutual accountability and trust
- Equality and shared responsibilities
- Reciprocal learning
- A mutual commitment to long-term change
- Our full partnership policy is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/mvydkv9>

 ASPIRA

 vmware

 THE FRIENDS OF
KIPKELION

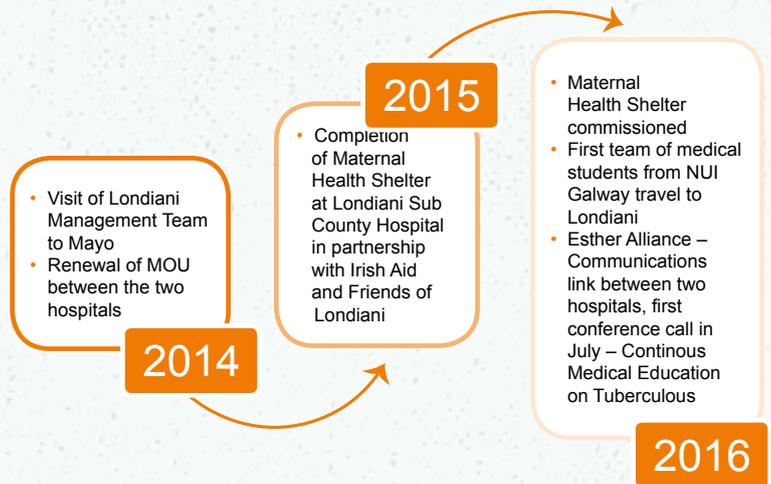
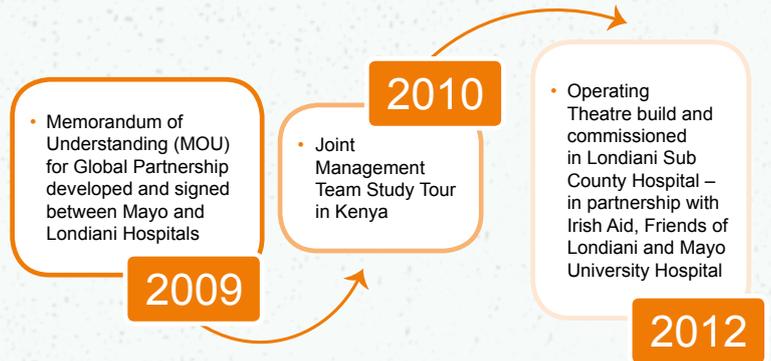


Supporting Hospital Link



Brighter Communities Worldwide has a long-established partnership with the hospital in Londiani and since 2005 has facilitated a link between it and an Irish hospital in Mayo.

The Link Programme has involved:



There has been ongoing reciprocal education in areas such as Obstetrics, Tropical Medicine, Trauma, Surgery, Paediatrics, Perioperative Medicine, Professional Development, Infection Control and Project Management and a total of seven service teams have travelled from Mayo to Londiani since 2005.

The link between the two hospitals and Brighter Communities Worldwide resulted in a team of four medical students from NUI Galway travelling to Londiani in July 2016. This provided an amazing opportunity for learning and capacity building for all groups involved and for communities in Londiani.

A Snapshot of Some of our 2016 Fundraisers

Mountain Challenge – Three groups of participants took to the hills in Connaught, Munster and Leinster in August 2016. They climbed for Kenya tackling Croagh Patrick, Carrantuohill and Lugnaquilla, and raised funds in the process with participant fees and sponsorship.

Christmas Crafts – Brighter Communities Worldwide have established contacts with local producers of Kenyan crafts over the past few years and these beautifully made items were very popular in 2016. With the help of volunteers, they sold at craft fairs and stalls and through places of work as well as through our website and from our office.

Golf Classic – We held a Golf Classic in June at Roscrea Golf Club organised by one of our Ambassadors where teams of four took part and local businesses sponsored the event.

Kenya Ball 2016 – We held a fundraising ball in October for supporters, volunteers, donors and friends to support the work in Kenya and where we also did a pre-launch of the new branding.

Tomas Grows a Wig – One of our youngest fundraising supporters spent two years growing his hair to donate to a foundation who create wigs for children and raised sponsorship in the process to support our Access to Clean Water programme.

Coffee Mornings – Tea and coffee are among the crops grown by the communities we work with in Kenya and so there is an extra incentive to include them as part of our fundraising events.

Online Shopping – As well as the craft items we have for sale on our website, we also have key rings, a range of Irish-made sterling silver starfish jewellery and wedding place name cards based on the big six safari animals of Kenya which highlight the communities we work with.

Community Fundraising Harambee in Londiani – The local Kenyan community held a fundraising event in Kenya in 2016 to raise money to support the education bursary scheme. This was the first fundraising event of its kind held to support one of our projects.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is committed to achieving the standards outlined in the Charities Institute of Ireland Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising, further information available at: <http://tinyurl.com/l9opghf>.



Funding

Brighter Communities Worldwide receives grants from a number of sources which allow us to carry out programmes in Kenya. This is in addition to fundraising events, private donations, business donations and local fundraising by volunteers which we depend on greatly.

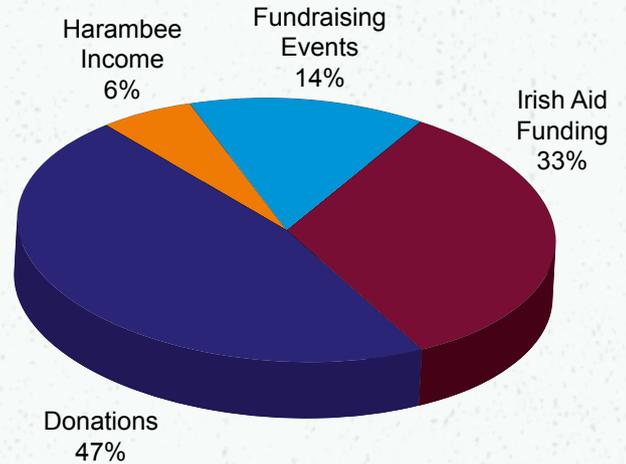
All of our programmes are cost shared in Kenya, with the communities we are working with providing 50% of the costs by way of labour, materials donated or finance. We believe in a cost-sharing approach as it is sustainable, reinforces our partnership principles and creates a sense of ownership among communities.

Brighter Communities Worldwide would like to express gratitude to the following for supporting our efforts in 2016:

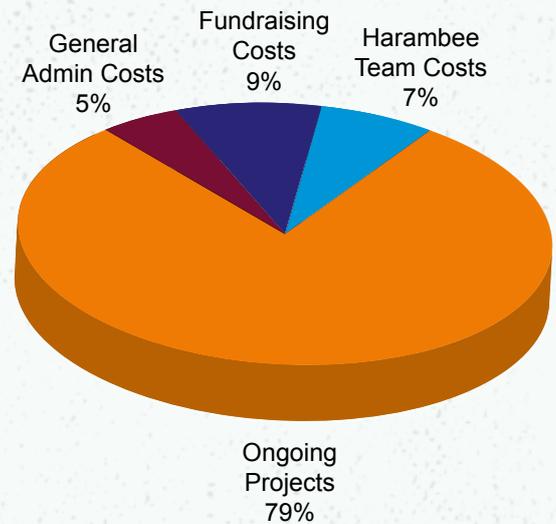


2016 Financial Summary

Income



Expenditure



Our accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard in general and with the Dóchas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. We publish our Annual Accounts online every year and these are available on our website: http://www.friendsoflondiani.com/en/resources/financial_accounts.php

Financial Report 2016

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016 Restricted	2016 Unrestricted	2016 Total	2015
INCOME				€
Harambee Income	29,218	–	29,218	13,340
Fundraising Events	–	62,974	62,974	36,913
Irish Aid Funding	151,592	–	151,592	160,645
Donations	179,339	32,086	211,425	200,407
	306,149	95,060	455,209	411,305
INTEREST RECEIVABLE				
Bank Interest receivable	–	55	55	345
GROSS INCOME	360,149	95,115	455,264	411,650
EXPENDITURE				
Ongoing Projects	330,934	–	330,934	316,212
Harambee Costs	29,215	–	29,215	13,340
Fundraising Costs	–	36,508	36,508	31,159
General Admin Costs	–	20,886	20,886	20,316
	360,149	57,394	417,543	381,027
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	–	37,721	37,721	30,614
	0	37,721	37,721	30,614

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS	€	€
Debtors and prepayments	20,276	24,818
Cash at bank and in hand	239,315	195,783
Designated Funds	75,839	76,871
	335,430	297,472
CREDITORS	(88,236)	(87,999)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	247,194	209,473
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	222,194	184,473
Restricted Funds	25,000	25,000
	247,194	209,473

Compliance, Transparency & Governance

At Brighter Communities Worldwide we believe that it's important to promote good practice in everything that we do. Below is a sample of the codes and principles we are signatories to and to which we adhere. We believe these standards of good practice are paramount to making sure that our organisation is working in the best interest of all those involved.

For more information on any of these codes or organisations, please visit our website: www.brightercommunities.org

Following assessment by Comhlámh's recognition panel we were awarded Comprehensive Compliance status in 2016 for our adherence to the code. This means that we have attained over 85% of the indicators, including the core indicators, of the CoGP in preparing volunteers for overseas placement. Comprehensive Compliance status is the highest award for quality responsible volunteering programmes available to Irish international volunteer sending agencies.



We are members of Dóchas which is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. We have implemented the Code on NGO corporate governance and comply with all its principles. A review of our organisation's compliance with the principles in the Code was conducted on 16 April 2016. We are a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages and commits to applying the Code's principles for all our communications. We have adhered to the seven mandatory principles of the Code during 2016.

We support the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability and are striving to implement the code throughout the organisation. The code sets out nine commitments that organisations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide.



We are committed to achieving the standards outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising supplied by Charities Institute Ireland (formerly from ICTR), the organisation representing the interests of Irish charities.

Governance

Brighter Communities Worldwide Ireland is a registered charity in Ireland (CHY16505); Charity Regulatory Authority Number CRA 20059583 and a company limited by guarantee (398094). The Company was incorporated on 23 February 2005 and is a Company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. As of 31 December 2016, there were 10 members whose guarantee is limited to €1 each. This guarantee continues for one year after membership ceases.

Brighter Communities Worldwide Kenya is an International Non-Governmental Organisation registered in Kenya (OP/218/051/2005/0295/3731).

We comply with The Wheels's Governance Code Type C for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. We confirm that a review of our organisation's compliance

with the principles in the Code was conducted on 16 April 2016. This review was based on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. The review sets out actions and completion dates for any issues that the assessment identifies as needing to be addressed.

Our accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard in general and with the Dóchas/ Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. We publish our Annual Accounts online every year and these can be downloaded from our website.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is compliant with the terms of the NGO Coordination Act of 1990, and the attendant Regulations of 1992 in Kenya.

Structure, Staff & Operations

Structure

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by a Board of Directors in Ireland and a Board of Management in Kenya. The role of these boards is to govern the organisation in accordance with its mission, vision and legal obligations.

Both Boards:

- **are composed of 10 Non-Executive Directors plus the Chief Executive Officer.**
- **meet six times a year and have ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of Brighter Communities Worldwide, ensuring it is solvent, well-run and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up.**
- **are responsible for our strategic direction, safeguard our ethos and are responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including money, insurance and legalities.**

The Board of Directors has a number of sub-committees including Audit, Human Resources (HR) and Executive. The executive committee deals with any urgent matters in between board meetings, and ensures board decisions are implemented.

Adequate systems of internal control are in place, which aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of resources, safeguard assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced. Financial information is subject to detailed review at board level.

All Brighter Communities Worldwide board members are voluntary and do not receive payments to attend board meetings. All expenses incurred by board members in fulfilling their duties as board members are paid according to our Expenses Policy.

The profiles for all board members are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/mq5932c>.



Staff & Operations

Day-to-day operations are undertaken and delegated by the Chief Executive Officer. An Officer Manager and a Development Analyst who was hired in October work in the Irish office while there are a team of twenty working in the Kenya office. The Kenya team consists of a Programme and Operations Manager, Field Officers for the various programmes, health workers, Administrative and Security personnel.

The entire staff team work together on the implementation of our strategic plan in the areas of water, health, education and economic empowerment under the direction of the CEO.

The profiles of all staff members are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kfwhz27>.

From time to time third party services are provided to Brighter Communities Worldwide and these are coordinated by the Chief Executive Officer. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors.



Future Plans

Brighter Communities Worldwide's programmes all contribute to bringing about change in the communities in which we work. These programmes are based on Friends of Londiani's current strategic plan and Brighter Communities Worldwide will continue to work and develop these programmes, which include:

The Health Programme which includes public and clinical health and involves us working closely with the Ministry of Health to roll out the Community Health Strategy.

The Water Programme which looks at the sourcing, quality, security and distribution of water to the District. This includes management, metering, maintenance and the sustainability of the water supply and ensuring access for villages across the District.

The Economic Empowerment Programme which aims to work with communities to raise their incomes, and subsequently, their standard of living.

The Education Programme which includes both formal and non-formal education and includes supporting the Kenyan education system and community education.

The Development Education Programme which is to deepen people's understanding of global issues and encourage people to act to create a more just and equal world.

Brighter Communities Worldwide will continue running a Volunteer Programme throughout 2017.

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KENYA

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Telephone: +254 723 472 809

www.brightercommunities.org



Brighter Communities Worldwide is committed to achieving the **Global Goals for Sustainable Development**.

We believe this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to end extreme poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030. We encourage everyone to take action *'Be a global citizen. Act with passion and compassion. Help us make this world safer and more sustainable today and for the generations that will follow us. That is our moral responsibility.'*
UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon



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Brighter Communities Worldwide is a registered NGO in Kenya OP 218/051/2005/0295/3731