



**Brighter
Communities**
Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES



2022
ANNUAL
REPORT
and review



Creating better futures

www.brightercommunities.org



COVID 19 Symptoms

- FEVER
- COUGH
- TIREDNESS
- MUSCLE PAIN
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING



Prevention

- Wash your hands with soap and water
- Avoid shaking hands
- Practice social distancing (2m apart)
- Wear a mask to cover your mouth and nose
- Get the COVID-19 Vaccine

For assistance call: **0800 720 464**

CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE County Government of Kericho

#COVID19 #itsinyourhands #safehands





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*Eveline Chepchirchir,
Community Health Volunteer*

Our vision

A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures.

Chairperson's message

The journey of Brighter Communities Worldwide started in 2002 with a volunteer project that 20 years later has developed into a remarkable organisation. The essence of our vision 'of a world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures' continued to shine through 2022. The stories and evidence of change from two decades of community development are astounding and it is a privilege to be a part of this journey. This milestone has given time for reflection and we are excited to look to the journey ahead fuelled by the impact and commitment behind the first 20 years of Creating Better Futures.

Our theme for the year was Shining A Light On Inequality. The pandemic highlighted the scale of social inequality between different parts of the world, between rich and poor, between genders, between cities and rural areas. We strive in Brighter Communities Worldwide to deliver programmes that speak out on inequality and find ways to address the imbalance. During 2022, in East Africa we faced the triple threat of Conflict, Covid-19 and Climate Change resulting in economic crisis, drought and the threat of food insecurity. The vulnerability of the families we work with was highlighted once again.

Our programmes developed over 20 years enable communities to be more resilient through these challenging times. We celebrate the partnerships that support and strengthen our programmes and lead to long term

sustainability. Looking to the future, we will continue to focus our support on the most vulnerable and continue to work in partnership.

I take this opportunity to thank all the partners, donors, volunteers, board members, staff and communities involved with Brighter Communities Worldwide over the past 20 years for your support and commitment.

I would like to thank the board of directors who volunteered their time and skills this year and are dedicated to the strong governance, transparency and accountability of Brighter Communities Worldwide. Thank you to Avril Warren who retired from the board this year.

Brighter Communities Worldwide would not be where it is today without the dedication of our CEO Martin Ballantyne and the staff teams in Ireland and Kenya. I would like to thank him on behalf of the board for his hard work during 2022, his personal commitment to his role, to the communities that we work with, to the staff team and his patience and persistence in carrying out his role during very challenging times.

Best regards,
Sean O Sullivan
Chairperson



*Sean O Sullivan,
Chairperson*

Perpetua Chepngetich, student



Our mission

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

CEO's message

2022 was a challenging year globally and locally. It was overshadowed by the worst drought to hit the Horn of Africa in 40 years, war in Ukraine and continuing impact of Covid-19. In Kenya we are dealing with an economic crisis causing rising prices for food, energy, seeds and fertiliser which coupled with unpredictable weather patterns is leading to food insecurity. Covid-19 has not gone away and community transmission is still a threat to overwhelmed health systems.

2022 was also a year of reflection, a time to re-engage with beneficiaries of our programmes and people who have supported the organisation in various ways over two decades. Since 2002, this organisation has travelled a journey in East Africa – a journey of hope, friendship, togetherness and change. I am privileged to be a part of this journey since it's inception.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has always been a catalyst for change – we provide opportunities to bring people together, to discuss, to share and to agree solutions. I work with so many amazing people who are committed to realising this change. There are many examples – teachers and parents who support girls to remain in school; community health volunteers who encourage women to deliver their babies in health facilities; leaders who speak out against gender based violence; those who speak out against FGM; those who advocate on behalf of people living with disabilities ... the list is endless.

As I reflect on the last two decades, it is a privilege to work with inspirational people, to witness the commitment of individuals who make real the change they want to see in their communities.

Despite the challenges of 2022, there were many highlights for me during the year as we began to celebrate our 20 year anniversary. In May, we were privileged to welcome the Irish Ambassador to Kenya, Ms Fionnuala Quinlan on her first visit to Londiani coinciding with activities marking Menstrual Hygiene Day.

During the year we compiled our impact report – including data showing progress over 20 years and, stories of change from volunteers, beneficiaries, partners across Kericho county with whom we have worked over the past 20 years along with all the facts and figures. It was a huge piece of work and both overwhelming and humbling to see the magnitude of the impact of Brighter Communities Worldwide. We launched our 20 year Impact Report in May 2023 and I invite you to take a look here: tinyurl.com/20YearImpactReport



Martin Ballantyne,
CEO

Our fundraising Kenya Ball returned to the calendar in November. It was heart-warming to meet so many of our partners, volunteers, donors and supporters, many of whom I haven't had the opportunity to meet since the pandemic began. I am very grateful to all the donors who support the work of Brighter Communities Worldwide and without whom we would not have a 20 year anniversary to celebrate!

Thank you to the staff team in Kenya and in Ireland for the drive, energy and passion you put into working so hard throughout 2022. It is a pleasure to work with you. Thank you to the Board of Directors in Ireland and in Kenya for your support and commitment to our mission.

I have witnessed first-hand how when people work together anything is possible. We have achieved so much during the past 20 years and there is so much more to be done. The evidence shows that by working together we can achieve great things and I hope that you will continue along the journey with us on to our next chapter.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Ballantyne
CEO

Our 20-year **IMPACT**

We have reached:

1,927,516 beneficiaries since 2002

+ Health

59,127 households are accessing health services and understand how to stay healthy

854,334 people were reached with information and resources on Covid-19 prevention, treatment and vaccination

267%↑ increase in safe deliveries with more mothers giving birth in health facilities

Since 2012:
108,986 people living in remote areas have accessed health services through outreach clinics

Since 2011:

7,591 smokeless stoves installed resulting in a 92% reduction in respiratory illness

24%↑ increase in childhood immunisations which means more children will reach their 5th birthday



Education

Since 2005:

112,289

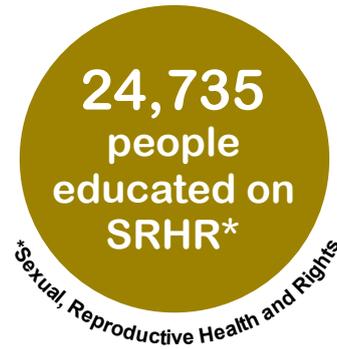
children in schools with clean and healthy environments for learning



Since 2011:

25,000

sanitary kits distributed giving girls and women dignity and independence



Since 2009:

23,608

girls graduated from an Alternative Rite of Passage abandoning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation



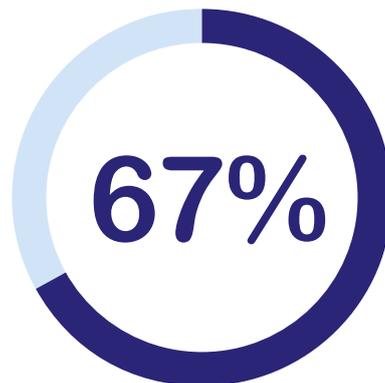
Economic Empowerment

67% of participants in our business training courses engage in a new income generating project

Since 2009:

1,900

participants



Who we are

Founded in 2002, Brighter Communities Worldwide deliver programmes focusing on Health, Education and Economic Empowerment in Kericho County, Kenya.

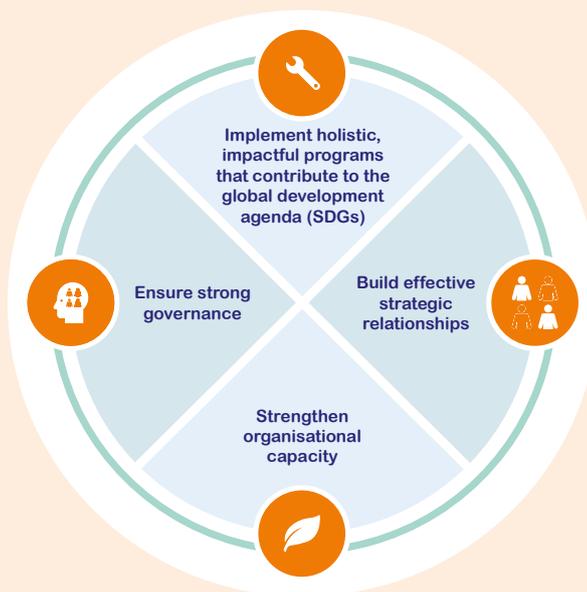
As two individual organisations, Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland and in Kenya work in partnerships and are aligned in our vision, mission, values and strategic plan.

Our current 5 year strategic plan is set to run from 2019 to 2023. This time frame has been extended to the end of 2024 to allow for delays in some areas due to the effort involved in our response to the global pandemic. We will aim to review mid-year and start to develop a new strategic plan to run from 2025 onwards.

Our strategic direction

We strive to create sustainable development, help end poverty, fight inequality and reduce the impacts of climate change.

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we intend to keep the two key principles of the SDGs at the foundation of our strategic plan – ‘leave no one behind’ and Universality. We will respond to current and emerging needs in the communities we work with as well as being an effective partner. We will leave no one behind.



The four main goals of our current strategic plan

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development



Our Unique Approach



We work with integrity, passion and togetherness:

-  As advocates for people who don't have a voice.
-  In partnerships 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 lives for everyone.

Looking forward

2022 was a very significant year for Brighter Communities Worldwide as we began to mark our 20 year anniversary. Activities continued into 2023 and included community celebrations in Kenya and the launch of our 20 Year Impact Report.

Here are some of the plans for 2023 under each of our current Strategic Plan goals:

Goal 1

Implement impactful programmes

- Focus on supporting the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine and continued support of households, schools, health facilities and health workers.
- Build staff capacity with training to support our continued focus on actively involving People Living With Disabilities across all programmes.
- Expand our Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) programme to reach more vulnerable groups including youth, teenage mothers, women impacted by gender based violence.
- Ensure stronger environmental focus in all programmes and ways of work by learning more about climate change, considering how we operate day to day and strengthening partner relationships.
- Strengthen the Harambee Volunteer programme with a revision of training and follow up with new partners for 2023.

Goal 2

Build effective strategic relationships

- Evaluation partnerships through in-person 2-day partnerships seminars where partners will reflect on changes in the previous year, current challenges and emerging needs.
- Consider joint funding applications with new partners and source more funding for water projects which remains the number one need across communities.
- Put a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system in place to help with building relationships with donor and supporters.

Goal 3

Strengthen organisational capacity

- Review and implement recommendations from an external consultation process to develop a new funding strategy.
- Continue engagement with Public Relations Consultant to raise the profile of the organisation among audiences in Ireland.
- Work on plans to effectively fundraise in Kenya for sustainability purposes.

Goal 4

Ensure strong governance

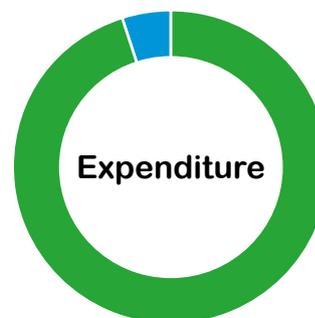
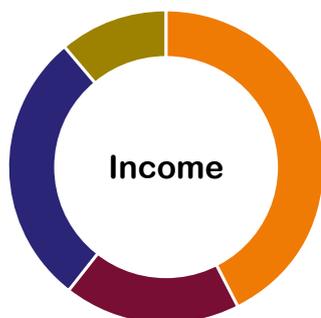
- Ensure annual compliance with the Governance Code and renewal of Triple Lock Status with Charities Institute Ireland.
- Organise a workshop for board members in Kenya on funding process and international ways of work.

Celebrating International Day of the Girl (November 2022)



Financial summary 2022

Our accounts are independently audited every year and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with the Dóchas and Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. We publish our annual accounts online every year and these are available on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWFinance



Irish Aid	€320,000
Donations and legacies	€134,635
Fundraising	€214,126
Other grants	€81,724
Total	€750,485

Development Programmes	€646,030
Health, Water and Sanitation	€339,877
Education	€274,262
Economic Empowerment	€31,891
Raising funds	€32,604
Total	€678,634

2022 Programme expenditure





“When you see me, I’m very happy and jovial person because although I’m a disabled person I am able to volunteer with Brighter Communities Worldwide. They don’t ignore anybody who has a disability. I thank them every much for considering me working with them.”

Ernest Langat, Facilitator with FGM Abandonment Programme

Covid-19 response

During 2022, our response to the pandemic focused on providing logistical support for the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine. At the same time we continued to provide information and raise awareness about the virus in the community and support health facilities and health care workers to continue providing healthcare services.

- Training support for Ministry of Health staff included the Covid-19 vaccine – storage, cold chain, Infection Prevention and Control as well as patient safety, hand hygiene, isolation precautions and supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- **843 Community Health Volunteers** shared information about Covid-19 with **13,375 households** across their communities, explaining the role of the vaccine and helping to dispel any fears and misconceptions.
- Provision of **resources to health facilities** to support the vaccine rollout included:
 - PPE, posters and banners.
 - Vaccine cooler boxes to enable the safe transport of vaccines.
- Vaccine fridges to enable the safe storage of vaccines.
- Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health, we delivered specific **Covid-19 outreach clinics** bringing access to the vaccine closer to the people. These took place across communities in markets, churches, and schools. During 2022 **154 Covid-19 Outreach Clinics** were completed reaching **13,840 people**.
- We facilitated **online information sharing** between health care workers in Londiani Sub-County Hospital and health care workers in Ireland.
- A strong network of approximately 3,000 volunteers across the county continued to sensitise their communities on preventing transmission and on the benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine.
- We provided schools with soap and handwashing facilities when they re-opened in January.

Londiani Sub-County Hospital staff receiving PPE (April 2022)





Stronger, healthier families create stronger communities

We work to promote and strengthen the health of the people we work with by making sure they have a **healthy living environment**, access to **the knowledge and information** they need to live healthy lives and a **health care system** that is strong enough to deliver to their needs.

We do this in partnership with community groups, health care workers, volunteers and Ministry of Health personnel. We work together to help families and communities to take an active role in health and health-related development issues. This happens through **Community Units** which are the foundation of the Kenyan Community Health Strategy. Each Unit is formed locally, attached to a health facility and involves local people who manage the unit and *Community Health Volunteers (CHVs)* who are assigned a number of households to support. Each Community Unit serves a population of approximately 5,000 people and collects baseline data from their households to help identify the needs of that community. Each month the data is collected and analysed and activities are prioritised based on the analysis. Activities follow focusing on the key health issues identified and the community work together to learn what action needs to be taken to address them.

During 2022 **8 Community Units** were formed bringing to 64 the total number of units which Brighter Communities Worldwide support.

As part of creating a *healthy living environment*, families are supported to put in place a number of key elements which create **the Healthy Homestead**. These include safe water supply, good sanitation, rubbish disposal, smoke free cooking environment, indoor space and



ventilation, progressive vector control, nutrition and food supply, improvement of maternal and new born health and income generating activities.

Remote Emergency Care course practicals (July 2022)

Training for the *Community Health Volunteers* includes:

Remote Emergency Care focusing on immediate and urgent care in remote settings which includes first response, stabilisation and transfer of patients to the nearest health facility. During 2022 **285 participants** were trained through 10 courses.

Maternal Health focusing on maternal, newborn and child health and recognising the warning signs of complications in expectant women, the importance of Ante Natal Care, Post Natal Care and how to refer women to a health facility. During 2022 8 courses were completed by 123 CHVs.



Mother and Child clinic at Kipkelion Sub-County Hospital (April 2022)

Smokeless Stove installations using locally made bricks and a tin chimney which extracts the smoke from the kitchen. CHV's are trained as installers. Surveys are undertaken before the stove is installed and then 6 months later to measure the impact. **893 households** undertook post-installation surveys in 2022 and 99% of those interviewed said they spend less time collecting firewood, their household income has increased and there were no respiratory illnesses in the household since the new stove.

Strengthening the Health Care System involves:

Training and support for health care workers to strengthen their capacity to deliver health services through health clinics and hospitals. During 2022 **21 Continuous Medical Education (CME)** activities took place with 960 Health Care Workers. Topics covered include Infection Prevention and Control, Obstetric Care, TB preventive treatment, mental health, Diabetes, Microsoft Power Point, Physiotherapy, Ebola preparedness, Covid-19 prevention and control, safely supplying vaccines, Antimicrobial resistance and Family Planning.

A Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) programme which includes sexual

and reproductive health, maternal new-born and child health care, adolescent health, family planning and communicable diseases that contribute to maternal, neonatal and child mortality. It operates on three levels – community health education, Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and professional development improving skills in obstetric and neonatal care.

The **Ante-Natal Care (ANC) Tracker** which is an integral part of MNCH. It supports expectant women to complete the recommended number of 4 ANC visits in advance of delivery. CHVs are trained to support a woman from the time she becomes pregnant, accompanying her to her first ANC visits and supporting her up to the birth of the child and beyond. During 2022 **4 ANC tracking trainings were held for 97 Community Health Assistants** who are attached to health facilities and **13 trainings were held for 177 CHVs.**

Essential Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EONC) workshops to strengthen the skills and knowledge of health care workers. During 2022 one-day development workshops were delivered in 15 health facilities with 76 participants. During these workshops, staff skill levels are assessed at the facility level and the staff are supported in areas where capacity is needed.

Health Programme objectives

1. Community members, particularly women and girls, will have access to a strengthened and more effective and equitable healthcare system
2. Increased resilience of community members through improved health and hygiene knowledge and practices.

Performance indicator: Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health to establish new community units and strengthen existing units in Kericho county

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 8 new units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 new units formed before pandemic began, then switched to supporting all 56 existing units to fight Covid-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 8 new units Strengthen 56 existing units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 new units set up 56 existing units strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 8 new units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 new units set up Supporting 64 existing units

In 2022 8 new units were set up in Kipkelion West, Sigowet Soin, Ainamoi and Belgut Sub-Counties. This involved 24 mobilisation events with 560 participants to introduce the concept to the communities and training for 173 Community health Volunteers (CHVs) and 72 Community Health Assistants.

64 community units continued to be strengthened through Covid-19 capacity development of CHVs and sensitisation of 59,127 households (311,134 beneficiaries including children and youth).

Performance indicator: Support for the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine (2020 target and achievement not applicable)

2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support training and logistical needs of health services once vaccine arrived in Kenya in March 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of vaccination centre in Londiani Sub-County Hospital 5 health facilities supplied with vaccine refrigerators 20 vaccine carriers delivered to outreach sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply of vaccine refrigerators to 10 facilities Supply of vaccine carriers to 25 facilities Sensitisation of communities on Covid-19 vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine refrigerators delivered to 10 facilities Vaccine carriers delivered to 25 facilities 843 Community Health Volunteers were trained and sensitised 64,334 people.

The facilities who received vaccine refrigerators serve a population of 37,489 people and the outreach sites who received the vaccine carriers support a population of 91,130.

Performance indicator: Number of facilities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 health facilities were provided with PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 health facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 health facilities

The provision of PPE was an ongoing challenge since the pandemic began, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to provide this to health facilities in need.

Performance indicator: Number of homesteads with a smokeless stove installed

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by 1,200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,299 smokeless stoves installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by 1,200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 smokeless stoves installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by 1,200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,406 smokeless stoves installed

There was a reduction of 8% in respiratory illness reported in 2022 and the smokeless stoves programme contributed to this.

Stories of impact

“We are very happy about this Outreach Clinic because the distance to the health facility is very far, about 10km and all mothers in my village cannot afford to reach there”.

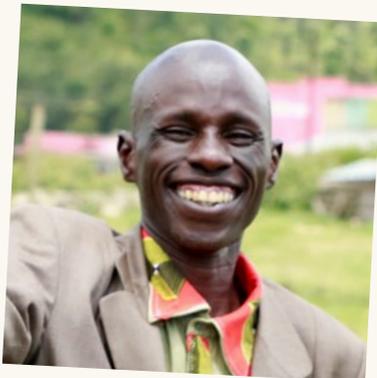
Esther Sitinei, Community Health Volunteer, Kutung

Esther Sitinei is so happy to see an increase in attendance at the Outreach Clinic (ORC). The accessibility of the ORC for women makes attendance at ante natal care and ultimately deliveries much more structured and planned.

This ante natal preparation time gives the mother increased knowledge and opportunities to put plans in place for the baby’s birth. This ante natal time also provides the Community Health Volunteer with a better understanding of the mothers physical and psychological wellbeing, as well as identifying any risks that may need to be referred to Londiani Sub-County Hospital for more specialist care. The deliveries are also managed in a more planned fashion with increased knowledge of the mother’s identity and history.



*Esther Sitinei,
Community Health Volunteer*



*Andrew Koech,
Ambassador for SRHR*

“Girls, women, men and boys know that puberty and menstruation is a normal thing”. **Andrew Koech, Ambassador for SRHR**

Andrew Koech is from Kokwet unit in Kipkelion West and he trained as an ambassador for sexual, reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to educate and share information in his community. He has delivered information sessions on all aspects of reproductive health to men, women, boys and girls. He says people in his community are breaking down barriers and talking more openly. The fear and stigma attached to menstruation is gone, days that girls miss school have reduced and there is greater provision of sanitary pads with the introduction of reusable sanitary kits with demonstrations on how to make your own.

Volunteers like Andrew, are key to raising awareness in the community about the challenges and inequalities facing girls and women in the community. Ambassadors facilitate workshops with small groups of men, women, girls and boys encourage openness and provide education that has not always been available. The community realise that sexual and reproductive health is everyone’s business and take charge of making changes to address the inequalities that exist.





Providing access to safe water

Our WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene – programme aims to ensure that communities can access a supply of clean, safe water for washing and drinking and also to improve sanitation with improved pit latrines (toilets) at home and in schools.

Access to clean water remains a top priority for the communities that we work with. 55% of households don't have access to safe water and up to 80% of households are without improved pit latrines. Contaminated water and poor sanitation cause transmission of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and polio. Diarrhoea worldwide is the fifth leading cause of death in children under 5 years of age.

School going children risk missing out on classes when schools don't have handwashing facilities and disease is spread rapidly.

During 2022 we completed **four Spring Protection projects** bringing clean water to 4,840 people. We work with communities, sharing costs 50/50, to secure and make safe their water spring source. This involves construction to protect it from animal contamination and plumbing to bring the water to a storage tank from where the community can access the water using a tap.

4 community sensitisation meetings were held to provide information on the importance of conserving water sources, sanitation and hygiene and 128 community members attended.



Water collection point at Ngariet Spring Protection (April 2022)



Official opening of Ngariet Spring Protection (May 2022)

Stories of impact

“Access to clean water has been life-saving and life-changing and we know how to sustain this water project for years to come”. **Joseph Matinkwony**



Joseph Matinkwony

Joseph Matinkwony is dedicated to bringing clean water to Ndubusat village and surrounding area. His connection with Brighter Communities Worldwide goes back to 2005, he tells us that as a result of investment in safe, clean accessible water, many people within his community have a standard of living that they were excluded from before the water project. This is a gravity fed water scheme developed in partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and serving a population of 11,000. The health benefits are many, with a huge reduction, if not total eradication of waterborne diseases, for e.g., Typhoid at home and at school.

Another benefit of the scheme has been the piping of water to the local clinic and schools. This has enriched the lives of those working and attending the clinics. Likewise in the school settings, children through their teachers are being educated about the management of water.

For girls and women, walking long distances to collect water for the household is now a thing of the past because collection points with shared taps bring water closer to home. Better health and hours saved collecting water allow for more engagement with education and an improved standard of living as the community can engage more in income generating activities.





Knowledge is power

Our Education Programme operates both in schools and in the community with the aim of equipping young and old with the knowledge, strength and confidence they need to achieve for themselves a healthy and fulfilling life.

Schools education

Our Healthy Schools programme is about creating a safe and healthy environment where children can learn. It is a partnership between students, teachers, school management, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. It includes teacher training, classroom studies and involves the children directly as they form health clubs to identify risks and create plans to address them. Together we undertake construction projects for water and sanitation.

There are 342 primary and secondary schools involved in the programme.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was not possible to implement the programme in the usual way

during 2022. Instead we focused on supporting the schools to prepare for re-opening with resources and training. Each school received 2 100 litre handwashing tanks; 2 boxes of soap; posters and a banner with Covid-19 information. In each school 2 teachers and 20 students from the health club were trained on preventing transmission covering topics including handwashing, social distancing, temperature checking and mask wearing. They went on to sensitise their peers.

Schools Construction Projects included provision of **rain water harvesting tanks** made of ferrous cement which can store 32,000 litres of water and pit latrine blocks (toilets) for boys and girls. Many schools prepare food for the students during the day and **institutional size smokeless stoves** were installed to provide a smoke free cooking environment which is cleaner, safer and healthier. All school construction projects are implemented using cost sharing of up to 50% with the schools, local funds and parents.

Distribution of soap for handwashing at Kichawir Primary (February 2022)





Celebrating with song at graduation ceremony for Alternative Rite of Passage (April 2022)

Community education

We deliver **Life Skills courses** for community groups where participants explore values, relationships, communications in a safe space and learn about sexuality and reproductive health. There are 11 modules in the course including *Communications & Values; Relationships; Stages of Development; Sexuality; HIV & AIDS; Nutrition; Family Planning; Maternal & New-born Health; Mental Health; Drugs & Addiction and Safeguarding*. Courses run over 5 days and contribute to the strengthening of trust between community members and often the formation of groups who address key community issues.

In 2022, **30 courses took place with 995 participants** among these 10 were people living with disabilities. The courses are facilitated by volunteers from the community trained by Brighter Communities Worldwide. We held 2 workshops on Maternal Health and Lifeskills facilitation training in 2022 with 30 volunteers.

Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is a programme that has developed out of our menstrual health programme in schools and in the community. SRHR is a topic that is difficult for the community to talk about and to access information to inform themselves. To overcome this, local volunteers train as **ambassadors** who facilitate workshops for the men, women, boys and girls in their community providing facts, raising awareness and supporting girls and women with

menstrual health. During 2022 31 workshops were held on SRHR with 758 participants including Community Health Volunteers.

We train teachers to deliver the programmes in schools. We provide 'starter' reusable sanitary kits for vulnerable girls and women. These kits contain underwear, soap, liners, information pamphlets and cotton reusable pads. During the workshops participants are shown how to make additional reusable pads from locally available materials e.g. cotton t-shirts.

Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) learn about the SRHR programme as part of their training and during 2022 **152 CHVs from 11 Community Units were trained**. Now they know what it has to offer, why it is important and they can advocate for it in their communities.

Our Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment programme is about encouraging communities to **Say No to FGM** and replace the practice with a safer, culturally appropriate alternative. The programme engages the whole community, providing information and raising awareness of the dangers of FGM. During 2022, 168 days of sensitisation and mobilisation were carried out by local volunteers engaging 11,297 people. This includes families, community leaders, health care workers and volunteers who facilitate an **Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) course for the girls**. 94 courses were held in 2022 with 4,864 girls taking part.

Education Programme objectives

1. Increased number of boys and girls attending school in a healthy and safe environment.
2. Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
3. Communities will be proactive in addressing inequality and have zero tolerance to violence – particularly against women and girls.

Performance indicator: Number of Healthy Schools supported in Covid-19 preparedness for re-opening after school closures (2020 target and achievement not applicable)

2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 312 schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 312 schools supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 342 schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 342 schools provided with resources and training to support Covid-19 prevention

Across the 342 schools 6,840 students were trained and these in turn trained the school population reaching 106,329 students, 4,177 teachers and 1,417 non-teaching staff.

Performance indicator: Number of water tanks installed in schools

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 x 32,000 litre tanks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 water tanks constructed impacting 2,507 students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 x 32,000 litre tanks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 water tanks constructed in 8 schools impacting 2,856 students and 120 teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 x 32,000 litre tanks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 water tanks constructed in 8 schools impacting 3,618 students and 127 teachers

The tanks are constructed of ferrous cement with a system of guttering on the school roofs to collect and store rain water providing the schools with access to clean and safe water for drinking and cleaning.

Performance indicator: Number of girls attending Alternative Rite of Passage trainings

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,200 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 793 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,200 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No trainings took place due to Covid-19 restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,864 girls graduated across 94 Alternative Rites of Passage courses

No courses took place in 2021 due to the impact of schools closures on the school calendar – they took place in March and April 2022, and again in December 2022.

Performance indicator: Number of menstrual health ambassadors trained

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 139 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 201 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 316

Due to Covid-19 community menstrual health workshops were not possible. The programme was pivoted to train “Ambassadors” across communities who then sensitised their communities in social-distanced small groups.

Performance indicator: Number of sustainable reusable sanitary kits distributed to girls and women

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,500 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 704 women and 1,062 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 women and 2,000 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 women and 2,690 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 women and 2,000 girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,622 women and 5,302 girls

Ambassadors identified girls and women from vulnerable households in their communities who were supported with reusable sanitary kits. Out of the total number of girls and women provided with kits, 60% girls and 51% women continue to make their own reusable sanitary pads.



Youth group photographed on completion of their workshop on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. (December 2022)

Stories of impact

“When the Covid-19 pandemic became fierce and the school took a break, you intervened and assisted us a lot. We would like to inform you that the entire Kutung Community are thankful for the work you have been doing and even the work you will still be doing”. Josline Chelangat, student



Josline Chelangat

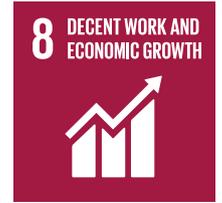
Josline Chelangat lives in Kutung which is in a remote, resource poor part of the county. She was in secondary school when the pandemic started and the schools closed for over a year. Working with community leaders, parents and volunteer teachers, we set up community based learning groups. The children were able to continue learning, have time for play, be safe and get a hot meal and fresh fruit every day.

Josline describes what this was like for her community: “You assisted us through community based learning where we were informed about the danger of Covid-19, how to prevent the virus, washing hands with soap, social distancing and wearing a mask.

We were informed about healthy food and you also provided. This was shown by the little kids who were singing everywhere about the fruits they were given. The mature girls who were unable to buy the sanitary towels were so much happy when they were taught on how to improvise the re-usable sanitary pads. Above all we have advanced the school with a kitchen and a smokeless stoves which uses less firewood, is efficient and makes you to work in a non-smoky environment.

We thank you sincerely for your tireless effort you put into this community of Kutung”.





Objective

Improved standard of living across households.

Performance indicator: Number of business training courses held

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
• 4	• 2	• 15	• 21 courses with 303 participants	• 20	• 22 courses with 342 participants

Business training courses support people to set up a new business or improve an existing one. They don't just help individuals – they contribute to the improvement of economic activity in the region.

The aim of the Economic Empowerment Programme is to support and promote projects that will raise the incomes, and subsequently, the standard of living of people in the communities we work with. This is achieved through delivery of courses providing skills, information and knowledge and resources for setting up income generating projects.

The programme includes a number of elements. To start with, **Business Training Courses** are provided where participants learn about book keeping, budgeting, marketing and writing a business plan.

Following on from the training, groups are encouraged to plan **income generating projects** and apply to Brighter Communities for the resources they need, for example – seeds and fertiliser for vegetable farming; safety clothing for bee keeping; chairs for a hire business. Providing groups with resources and training has a bigger impact than providing them to an individual alone.

Follow-up meetings are held to share learnings, discuss challenges, check progress and assess changes to participants standard of living. During 2022, meetings were held for 20 trained and supported groups reaching 279 people from 157 villages.

Business Network meetings are held to bring together groups with similar income generating activities. During 2022, 20 groups were reached with 293 people participating. They explored their progress, challenges, solutions, learnings, marketing and future plans.

The **sustainable tourism project** developing a community-based sustainable tourism project that provides employment and financial benefit to the local communities; which in turn raises the standard of living; improves health; encourages gender and social equality and biodiversity conservation. It includes a tourism trekking route, a campsite and works with communities to implement healthy villages across the region. Communities along the trekking route will over time become economically empowered through the provision of goods and services to the visitors and trekkers.



Business training course participant graduating after 3 day course (March 2022)



Sharon is chairperson of a group called Roret Persons Living with Disabilities. She took part in the business training course and this photograph was taken at her tailoring shop as part of follow up support. Sharon said her shop has improved and customers have increased as she is using new skills gained from the training. (March 2022)

Stories of impact

“Our income generating project has enabled 17 women to generate an income, making our lives more comfortable”.

Caroline Chepkoech



Caroline Chepkoech is a teacher and a member of Kolongei Kertai Women’s Group who have taken part in

business training provided by Brighter Communities Worldwide. The training provided the women with information, knowledge and skills they needed to set up an income generating project.

They wanted to rear goats which is an ideal farming project for their area and they are receiving an income from selling the goats’ milk. As well as providing training in 2022, Brighter Communities Worldwide provided the group with goats to get the project started and it has grown since then. The women have encouraged other women to follow their lead and form groups, take part in the training and apply for resources to get started on a project.

Forming a group brings women together providing peer support, direction and keeping the group active. Business training and resources don’t just help the individuals involved, they contribute to the improvement of economic activity in the region. Follow up meetings are arranged to offer support and encouragement to the groups and help them deal with any challenges that come their way.



Caroline Chepkoech

Volunteers and supporters

Volunteers involved with Brighter Communities Worldwide come from all age groups, backgrounds and experience and without the time they generously give and the skills they share we would be a very different organisation.

In **Kenya** thousands of volunteer facilitators delivered our community based workshops during the year, community health volunteers looked after the health of households in their area, ambassadors advocated for sexual reproductive health and rights in their communities and teachers and parents gave so much to programmes that protect their children such as Healthy Schools and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment.

In **Ireland and around the world** – here are some of the events and activities that volunteers led and participated in:

20 year anniversary

- Organised spring series of 4 online fundraising events including pilates, cooking, Irish music and gardening
- Creation of a series of story boards capturing stories of individuals and the impact of our programmes on their lives.
- 20 year impact report – developing the content, reviewing and publishing.
- Infographic depicting milestones across 20 years of Creating Brighter Futures.



Ultramarathon runner Eoin Keith on Giving Tuesday 29 November 2022 at Colaiste Mhuire School, Cobh where he was a past pupil. Eoin spent Giving Tuesday running laps around Cobh as part of the Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign

Fundraising

- 20 year challenge – volunteers organised walks and participated.
- Kenya Ball – a team of volunteers organised our first Kenya Ball since 2019 with 300 guests
- Giving Tuesday – team support in November from sponsored sea swimmers and an ultramarathon runner.
- Crafts from Kenya – volunteers were involved in sorting and pricing, promotion and sales at Christmas craft fairs and among friends.

Overseas

- While Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from planning a Harambee Volunteer project to Kenya in 2022, restrictions had lifted by November and three Irish volunteers supported the logistics for a visit to Kenya by a team of GAA All Stars with Self-Help Africa.

Giving Tuesday 5K run with Mayo University Hospital staff team



Global Citizenship

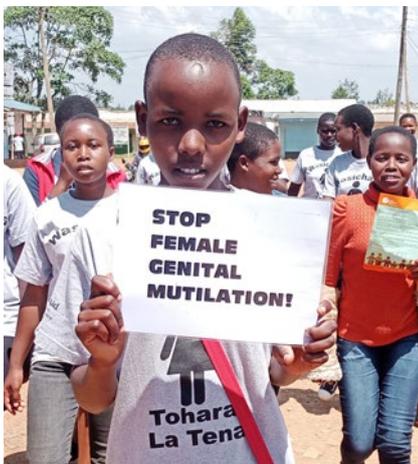
As an NGO we are in a position to actively encourage and facilitate the people we engage with to question their role and responsibility as global citizens. We shine a light on the inequalities of the world we live in and we aim to raise awareness with our supporters, donors, volunteers and community members on the impact of these inequalities.

During 2022, one of the ways we did this was by supporting global days of activism, raising awareness of the related issues and acting as advocates for the people we work with whose voices are not always heard. In 2023, we hope to get back to our overseas volunteer programme and Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is included in the volunteer training. We also plan to look at the development of a GCE strategy for the organisation going into 2024.

Menstrual Hygiene Day is a global advocacy platform that brings together non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector and the media to promote good menstrual health and hygiene. It is celebrated annually on 28 May and we have been a partner to this global event since it first began in 2014. We were privileged in 2022 to welcome Her Excellency, the Irish Ambassador Fionnuala Quinlan to Londiani. As well as visiting our office, the County Commissioner, the Londiani Sub-County Hospital and officially opening Ngariet Spring, the Ambassador celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day with schools and community members at Chebawor Primary School.



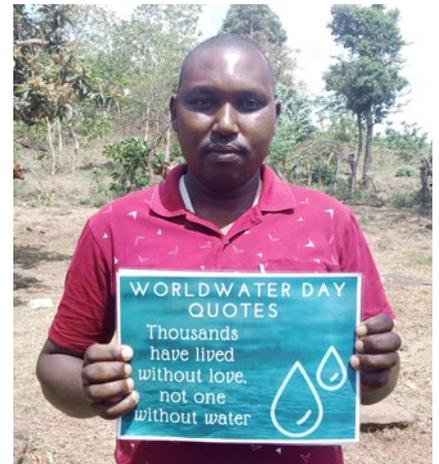
The Irish Ambassador to Kenya, Ms Fionnuala Quinlan with Judith Chelangat at the Menstrual Hygiene Day activities in Chebawor Primary School (May 2022)



Community procession raising awareness of the FGM Abandonment programme during the **UN 16 days of Activism** against gender based violence. Received local TV and radio coverage in Kenya. (December 2022)



We celebrate **Global Handwashing Day** in schools across the county and promote on our social media to highlight the importance of access to handwashing to stay healthy and stay in school. (October 2022)



We raise awareness on **World Water Day** of the importance of access to clean water and sanitation as a basic human right through our programme activities in Kenya and our social media channels. (March 2022)

Partnerships

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



We base our approach to community development on building partnerships with local community groups, government Ministries and stakeholders in Kenya, Uganda, Ireland and around the world. We believe that partnerships are fundamental to strong, local ownership of all our programmes and will lead communities to long-term sustainability.

We build our partnerships around a number of core principles, including: a shared vision of development, participation, mutual accountability, trust and a mutual commitment to long-term change. These are set out in our Partnership Policy available online: tinyurl.com/BCWPartnerships.

Partnership seminars

We hold annual Partnership Seminars bringing together our local partners to provide an opportunity to give feedback on the programmes they have been involved in and to share learnings with each other. These seminars help us to determine community priorities for the coming year and ensure our programmes are aligned with community needs. To comply with Covid-19 restrictions, we held several smaller partnership seminars during 2022 rather than our usual 2-day workshops which cater for larger numbers.

We planned these partnership seminars in 2022 to coincide with an external evaluation being carried out on our Irish Aid 'Healthier Communities, Brighter Futures' project delivered between 2018 and 2021.

West of Ireland Kenyan Partnership

Brighter Communities Worldwide facilitate a partnership between Mayo University Hospital in Castlebar, Londiani Sub-County Hospital, NUI Galway and Kenyatta

University Nairobi. This partnership was first established in 2004 between the hospitals and expanded to include academic partners in 2019. It enables shared learning between healthcare workers in western Kenya and western Ireland, with the aim of improving health outcomes for all.

- During 2022, we facilitated virtual sharing between staff at both hospitals on the topic of Newborn Resuscitation and Pre-eclampsia in pregnancy. This increases health workers skills and knowledge in emergency triage assessment and treatment of children and newborns which will support better outcomes for severely ill children and babies in the long term.
- MUH staff fundraised to support the upgrade of the New Born Unit at the hospital in Londiani to ensure the unit has the resources, training and equipment needed to give sick and premature babies the best possible care. Providing this care on site instead of being referred to Kericho County Referral Hospital is better for the baby in the long run and for families in the short term as they don't have to incur the costs of travel and accommodation.

Deliver of vaccination fridge, PPE and posters material to Sosit Dispensary (July 2022)



- In October 2022, a partnership team visit of 3 doctors travelled to Kenya for meetings, training, shared learnings on sexual, reproductive health and rights, pre-eclampsia and peri-natal mortality.
- In June 2022 students and staff from Kenyatta University in Nairobi visited University of Galway College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Services as part of an Erasmus programme. As part of this continuing medical education (CME) sessions and meetings were organised between all partners.



EONC training at KapKwen Dispensary (March 2023)



Friends of Kipkelion is a UK registered charity (no. 1188612) founded in 2010, working in partnership with the people of

Kipkelion in Kericho county. We have worked as partners since 2011 with both organisations sharing the same aims and values and working together on the delivery of our health, education and economic empowerment programmes. During 2022, the partnership implemented many of our programmes through generous funding from various organisations, individuals, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) along with participation in the London Half Marathon in September and the Big Give Christmas campaign. We are very grateful to Michael Deriaz, Chairman of Friends of Kipkelion, their board and their donors for their continued friendship and support.



GlobalGiving is a non-profit foundation that connects other nonprofits, donors and companies all over the world. We joined the foundation in September 2020 and as a GlobalGiving partner we have access to a variety of resources

including online fundraising tools, training and support to raise funds for the work that we do. During 2022, we took part in several match funding campaigns including Giving Tuesday in November. These attract new donors and build on relationships with existing donors. We also availed of the training and support process the foundation provides through webinars and resources available to their partners.

Thank you to all our donors and partners who have supported the communities we work with during 2022, including:

Links with companies

- Aspira
- Glen Dimplex
- Janssen Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Limerick City and County Council Staff Humanitarian and Benevolent Committee
- Moneenatieve Windfarm Ltd

Funding partners

- American Ireland Fund
- Benevity Giving Foundation
- Electric Aid
- For Her Dignity, Canada
- Friends of Kipkelion
- GlobalGiving Foundation
- Irish Aid
- Irish Global Health Network – Esther Ireland
- JP Mc Manus Charitable Fund
- Self Help Africa
- Soroptimist International Cork
- Soroptimist International Bangor
- Staff of HSE (Cork and Kerry) Association for the Relief of Poverty (SHARP)
- Surgeon Noonan Society
- Tralee Lions Club

Thank you for your support...

2022
**FUNDRAISING
ACTIVITIES
GENERATED**
€214,126

Fundraising in 2022 had a challenging start. We moved from a place of donor empathy with the needs of the communities we work with, e.g. facing Covid-19 without water for handwashing, to life resuming 'as normal' and then the outbreak of war in Ukraine. As the cost of living increases across the globe and the number of people needing support increases, donors are forced to reduce the amount they can give to charity.



Sponsored fundraising walk from Ballyheigue to Banna at sunset (August 2022)

The programmes we deliver are funded through grants received from various bodies including Irish Aid. These funds are tied to specific projects and most do not cover 100% of the costs. We rely on fundraising through events and donations to make up the shortfall and provide funding to respond to additional needs in any programme. During 2022, 29% of our income was generated through fundraising.

We were very happy to see in person events resume so we could fundraise both in the 'live' as well as 'virtual' space as the year went on. We are so grateful to everyone who supported our appeals, activities and events during 2022. Every single donation makes such a huge difference. Our fundraising efforts included:

- 4 online events – total €1,500 – including pilates, traditional music, cookery demonstration and Grow It Yourself (GIY) early in 2022.
- GlobalGiving online match funding campaigns – raised over €78,000 including the match funds. We took part in 4 campaigns during 2022.
- Giving Tuesday – the biggest GlobalGiving match funding campaign of the year, gave us the opportunity to gather as many donations as we could in a 24 hour time frame. We reached out to people individually, several volunteers undertook sponsored sea swims on the day and we had an ultra-marathon runner spend the day running laps of Cobh island where our office is based.
- Personal fundraisers – volunteers set up birthday fundraisers, hosted coffee mornings, took part in the Westport Sea-2-Summit 30km race involving running, cycling and climbing Croagh Patrick.
- We invited supporters far and near to #walkourjourney and take on the 20 year challenge choosing their own distance and walking from wherever they are based. Walks took place in Glendalough, Ballyheigue, Lugnaquilla, Aberdeenshire in Scotland, Galtymore, Cork city, in Kenya – at Londiani, Nairobi and Ndubusat.
- Kenya Ball 2022 – total €38,000 gross – traditionally our biggest annual fundraising event, it was all the more special this year with over 300 guests joining to celebrate our 20 year anniversary.
- Crafts from Kenya – with volunteers selling crafts made in Kenya at various markets around Ireland as well as online we raised almost €20,000.
- Donations from regular donors who are committed to monthly giving raised €25,000.
- Revenue's Charitable Donation scheme allows us to claim a refund on tax paid on donations from individuals of €250 or more in a year. In 2022 we received almost €14,000.

Our value for money approach

We believe good value for money is about the best use of our resources to achieve long term, positive change for the communities we work with.

We achieve good value for money in a number of ways:

- We implement **cost-sharing** across all our programmes with communities contributing up to 50% of the costs creating greater ownerships of the programmes, sustainability and a greater return on investment.
- Using **multiplier effects** for higher efficiency, for example – in 2022 we trained 843 Community Health Volunteers about the Covid-19 vaccine and they in turn reached 13,375 households with accurate information and facts resulting in more of the population vaccinated.
- **Money saving technology** – our use of Kenya's mobile banking systems (MPESA) reduced our transaction costs and saved time through it's efficiency.
- **Programme management** – we monitor our costs carefully against the outcomes of our programmes and continuously compare and ensure we are spending wisely and getting the best results possible.
- We are clever in our **use of resources when planning day to day activities** – for example, coinciding our partnership seminars with an external programme evaluation thereby making savings on time and finances.
- Groups applying for resources to set up their income generating activities must be registered as a self-help group with the relevant government Ministry. This means they have a legal status, a structure include group officials and a commitment which ensures sustainability.



Breakout groups for discussion at annual staff team workshop – the staff team in Kenya is 38 passionate and dedicated individuals (April 2023)

Governance

Good governance involves putting in place systems and processes to ensure that every charity achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an **effective, efficient, accountable** and **transparent** way. We comply with the Charities Governance Code which was put in place by the Charities Regulator to ensure that charities follow good governance.

Every year we review the Code to make sure we are meeting each of these six principles:



We record our compliance along with the actions we have taken that year to meet each standard. **We are fully compliant with the Code.**

Our financing

We publish our accounts annually and they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with the Dochas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting.

Structure

We are 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 our mission, vision and legal obligations.

Staff

We have a small staff team in Ireland and a larger staff team in Kenya who look after day to day operations under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer. These teams are supported by the time, energy and skills of hundreds of volunteers in Ireland, Kenya and around the world.

Signatories and memberships

We are signatories to several codes and guidelines that promote good practice in governance and fundraising, volunteer sending, safeguarding, images and messaging and accountability to the communities we support.



We value and appreciate the solidarity and support we receive as signatories to each of these organisations. We strive to achieve the standards set out because we believe in the importance of working in the best interest of all those involved in the work that we do.

Striking the 'Break The Bias' pose for
International Womens Day March 2022



International Women's Day is on 8 March each year and celebrates the achievements of women around the world. In 2022 we were encouraged to **Break The Bias** and imagine a gender equal world, free of bias, stereotype and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive where difference is valued and celebrated.

Brighter Communities Worldwide aims to ensure that all barriers that prevent girls and women access to health and education are removed so they can have equal opportunities in life. Where girls and women thrive, communities are strengthened.

We believe that addressing inequalities is about ensuring that all our programmes are open, accessible and inclusive to everyone in the community regardless of gender, ability, age, education or status.

#ShiningALightOnInequality

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

EXPENDITURE ON

Charitable activities

€646.030

95%

Brighter Communities Worldwide's expenditure on Charitable Activities, including; projects on Health, Education and Economic Empowerment in Kenya and the relevant support costs, amounted to €646,030 in 2022 (2021: €461,469), equating 95% in 2022 (2021: 92%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

Directors and other information

Board of Directors

Sean O Sullivan, Chairperson; Linden Edgell, Vice Chair Person; Anne Healy; Thomas Bird; Avril Warren (resigned June 2022); Eileen Moore; Roisin O'Neill; Catherine Donohoe

Company registered number: 398094

Charity registered number: CHY 16505

Registered office

Lower Ground Floor, 2 Westborne Place, Cobh, Cork

Company Secretary: Linden Edgell

Independent auditors: Grant Thornton, Penrose One, Penrose Dock, Cork

Bankers: Permanent TSB, Patrick Street, Cork

Solicitors: Charles C. Daly, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Cork

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide for the financial year ended 31 December 2022. This report presents the information and disclosures required by a Directors' Report under the Companies Act 2014, together with additional information required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Who are Brighter Communities Worldwide?

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, incorporated in Ireland on 23 February 2005 under the Companies Act, registration number 398094. Brighter Communities Worldwide was initially registered as Friends of Londiani Ireland and changed its name to Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee on the 22 December 2016. Brighter Communities Worldwide is one of the registered business names of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee. As of 31 December 2022, there were 8 members whose guarantee is limited to €1 each. This guarantee continues for one year after membership ceases. The current membership is the Board of Directors.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, registered charity No: 20059583, and has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, with registered charitable taxation No: CHY 16505.

Brighter Communities Worldwide works in partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya.

The partnership is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (last signed in 2021). This report outlines our programmes in Ireland and in Kenya implemented through this partnership.

Objectives and activities

Brighter Communities Worldwide believes 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."

The mission of Brighter Communities Worldwide 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 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 organisation built on integrity and good governance with a track record for 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.

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 programs to meet the needs of communities and individuals.

Creating brighter communities means ensuring:

- Access to good, affordable health care
- 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

Brighter Communities Worldwide implements programmes in Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

The impact of the work of Brighter Communities Worldwide is measured against targets using a Results Based Management System. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Policy in place that guides activities in this area. Brighter Communities Worldwide carries out monitoring and evaluation activities for two main reasons:

- To ensure that the organisation is fully accountable for the delivery of all its development activities
- To ensure that the organisation learns lessons throughout the implementation of its development activities and that this learning enables improvement and enhancement of its work on an ongoing basis.

Monitoring is carried out on a continual basis and involves collecting and recording data with information in order to track our progress towards expected results. Evaluation is an exercise that assesses systematically and objectively the relevance, performance and success of ongoing and completed programmes and projects at a key point in time for example monthly; quarterly and annually. As a learning organisation, Brighter Communities Worldwide reflects on the results of evaluation and applies this knowledge to improve the effectiveness of development projects etc.

Brighter Communities Worldwide used its results framework to continually monitor all its programmes

during 2022. Covid-19 continued to have an impact across all activities and so they were “pivoted” to respond to the impacts of the pandemic. An external evaluation of our Irish Aid programme was carried out in May/June 2022.

Brighter Communities Worldwide’s expenditure on Charitable Activities, including; projects on Health, Education & Economic Empowerment in Kenya and the relevant support costs, amounted to €646,030 in 2022 (2021: €461,469), equating 95% in 2022 (2021: 92%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide’s total expenditure for the year.

Achievements and performance

The challenges of Covid-19 continued throughout 2022. Since the start of the pandemic, Brighter Communities Worldwide has been delivering our biggest programme to date – an emergency response reaching over 900,000 people. Alongside this we have continued to deliver our community development programmes.

Our emergency response continued particularly focusing on the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine across Kericho County. Our emergency response continued to focus on supporting communities and on health systems strengthening which are highlighted in this report. During 2022 supporting the vaccine programme included training Health Care Workers, building a temporary vaccine centre in Londiani, distributing vaccine fridges and vaccine cooler boxes, and sensitising communities via Community Health Volunteers.

This ability to rapidly respond to changing community needs resulting from the pandemic has only been possible because of our locally based team of 39 staff and more than 3,500 volunteers across communities.

During 2022 a total of **311,363** beneficiaries were reached through our response. This includes **47,359** men, **62,599** women, **92,332** boys and **109,073** girls.

A selection of some of the key outcomes and results in each development programme area are outlined on the next two pages.

Health Programme objectives

1. Community members, particularly women and girls, will have access to a strengthened and more effective and equitable healthcare system.
2. Increased resilience of community members through improved health and hygiene knowledge and practices.

Achievements

Performance indicator: Coverage rate of the number of children under one year fully immunised

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
Increase by 1.5% annually	Increased by 6%	Increase by 1.5% annually	Increased by 6.55%	Increase by 1.5% annually	Increased by 8%

The immunisation of children and babies under 5 years is essential for their future health outcomes. Outreach clinics continued throughout 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic – this enabled mothers to access immunisation services in their communities.

Performance indicator: Outreach clinics

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
220	228 Outreach clinics were held bringing health services to 11,600 people	240	288 clinics brought health services to 15,213 people	360	441 clinics held bringing health services to 26,375 (9,557M, 16,818F)

Outreach Clinics bring services, such as, immunisation, vitamin A distribution, mother and child health, reproductive health, malaria treatment and prevention, to remote areas and enable communities to access these services.

Performance indicator: Number of pregnant women attending at least 4 Antenatal Care (ANC) appointments

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
Increase by 5% annually	3,228 (increase of 15%)	Increase by 5% annually	3,162 (decrease of 2%)	Increase by 5% annually	Increase by 10.5%

Numbers decreased in 2021 due to a two-month nurses' strike, when all facilities were closed. In 2022 the ANC tracker continued to be rolled out which supports women attend their ANC appointments – this contributed to the increased numbers.

Performance indicator: Number of women using the Maternal Health Shelter at Londiani Sub-County Hospital

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
57	77 (increase of 38%)	50	119 (increase of 55%)	140	231 (Increase of 94% since 2021)

A core part of our Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Strategy is the safe delivery of babies. The Maternal Health Shelter enables women to be in “the right place at the right time” when ready to deliver their babies – women can come and stay in the facility free of charge so when the time comes to deliver they can do so safely.

Education Programme objectives

1. Increased number of boys and girls attending school in healthy and safe environment.
2. Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
3. Communities will be proactive in addressing inequality and have zero tolerance to violence – particularly against women and girls.

Achievements

Performance indicator: Number of latrines/washrooms installed in schools

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
4 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/washroom structures for girls	4 boys' latrine blocks and 4 latrine /washroom structures for girls (impacting 598 boys and 924 girls)	4 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/washroom structures for girls	4 boys' latrine blocks and 4 girls' latrine/washroom structures (impacting 888 boys and 1,122 girls)	4 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/washroom structures for girls	4 boys' latrines and 4 girls' latrine/washroom structures (impacting 833 girls and 1,099 boys)

Our school construction projects continued throughout 2022 despite the pandemic.

Performance indicator: Number of smokeless stoves installed in schools

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
12 industrial smokeless stoves	12 smokeless stoves were installed impacting 4,193 students	12 industrial smokeless stoves	12 smokeless stoves were installed impacting 3,598 students	24 industrial smokeless stoves	25 smokeless stoves were installed in 25 schools impacting 6,642 students

Smokeless stoves have financial and health impacts across schools as well as addressing climate change.

Performance indicator: Number of people sensitised on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
1,500	4,899 people (450M, 1,712F, 568B and 2,214G)	2000	6,956 people (2,640F, 869M, 573B, 2,874G)	5,000	16,133 people (2,310B, 8,041G, 1,343M, 4,439F)

The organisation has taken the learnings and innovations from the Covid-19 pivot in 2020/2021 into the future of its Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Programme which includes SRHR Ambassadors volunteering across communities, Youth Workshops and Community Workshops.

Economic Empowerment Programme objectives

1. Improved standard of living across households.

Achievements

Performance indicator: Number of men, women and youth groups provided with resources to engage in income generation activities

2020 target	2020 achievement	2021 target	2021 achievement	2022 target	2022 achievement
20	20	20	30	20	20 groups 325 participants (155M, 170F of which 52% are women)

This activity was introduced in 2020 as a result of Covid-19. It was introduced to support young people who lost their income/ livelihoods due to the pandemic. Most work in the informal sector and so could not "work from home". It has now become part of the economic empowerment programme.

Irish Aid programme

In 2022, the organisation began the first year of a three-year Irish Aid project “*Transformed Communities, Brighter Futures*” across Kericho County. The outcomes and results above contributed to the overall aim of this project which is for women and girls to reach their full potential leading healthier, more resilient and productive lives through a transformative community approach.

In May/June 2022 an external evaluation was carried out on our Irish Aid “Healthier Communities Brighter Futures” project implemented between 2018 and 2021. The evaluation found that project has been successful in achieving its outcomes and all of the project objectives that included increased knowledge, service uptake, women’s decision-making ability, education outcomes, standard of living, community preparedness to public health emergencies and strengthening the health system across the Region.

Global Citizenship programme

Brighter Communities Worldwide’s Global Citizenship programme aims to encourage people to question the inequalities of the world we live in, deepen our awareness of global justice issues and act to do something about it. Every community has problems to deal with but we live in an interconnected and interdependent world where all issues are linked and if we are to achieve sustainable development for all we need to act together.

The Global Goals aim to “leave no one behind” and have a vision of a “just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met”. We promote that vision across all of our programmes in Ireland and in Africa.

International volunteer programme

‘Harambee’ is the Swahili word meaning ‘working together’. We have adopted it as the name for our overseas volunteer programme. Volunteers travel to Kenya to work alongside local volunteers on delivery of our programmes. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic there was no international volunteer programme in 2021.

Celebrating 20 years

Brighter Communities Worldwide is 20 years old, and began its celebrations with a fundraising ball in November 2022. It was an opportunity for the organisation to reflect on its journey since its inception in 2002. Celebrations will take place in Kenya in 2023.

Financial review

The results for the financial year and appropriation thereof are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 54.

In 2022 total income was €750,484, an increase of 5% on 2021 Income (€712,399). The increase is due to improved online donations as well as increase in funding from Irish Aid.

General donations were decreased at €12,668 (2021: €29,512) and our income from Friends of Kipkelion were decreased by 42% to €70,703 (2021 €122,848). Community fundraising events were possible throughout 2022 as Covid-19 restrictions were removed.

We continued to further develop online platforms for fundraising. The online events raised €100,675 a decrease on 2021 (€134,399). Grants received from; Esther Alliance, Electric Aid, Surgeon Noonan and Self Help Africa were achieved during the year and contributed to the impacts on income.

Expenditure for 2022 was increased by 35% to €678,634 (2021: €501,759). This increase can be attributed more successful funding applications during the year. The overall surplus for 2022 was €71,851 a decrease from 2021 €210,640, The surplus is a result of increased income towards the end of the year as well as some programme activities that would normally have taken place in the last quarter of 2021 in Kenya unable to take place until this year.

The contract period of the Irish Aid Civil Society Fund grant is October to October while Brighter Communities Worldwide reports on a calendar year. Irish Aid’s total funding of €320,000 was received during the 2022 calendar year there was a balance of €226,310 included in the restricted funds at year end. This will be spent during the remaining of the grant period up to 30 September 2023.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is grateful for the support of all its donors and supporters.

Reserves

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Reserves Policy (last reviewed in June 2023). Brighter Communities Worldwide has determined the following reasons for Reserves which are reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Board:

- **Emergency Reserve** – This reserve is for the risk of an unforeseen emergency which may arise due to the location of Brighter Communities Worldwide work. In 2022 this is €5,000.
- **Operational Reserve** – This is the amount of money needed to keep the office going for an agreed period of time and is based on the running costs for utilities, rent and staff. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a reserve of €20,000 in 2022 to cover operational costs in Ireland.
- **Grant money received, but not spent in the current year** – Grant money is rarely received and spent in its entirety within the current financial year, and so unspent grant money will be held in reserve until the following year – for example Irish Aid money where the grant year is 12 months from October (At the end of 2022 this was €226,310).

Cost apportionment

Brighter Communities Worldwide apportions its cost based on a time allocation basis.

Risk management

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Risk Management Policy and a Risk Management Register with Risk being a standing agenda item at each Board meeting. Discussions are held on any changes to the risk profile and mitigations put in place.

It is Brighter Communities Worldwide’s policy to continually identify and monitor the risks across all categories. The Risk Register is updated as the need arises by the delegated named person and reviewed at a meeting of the Executive Committee. Once reviewed and accepted by the Executive Committee it is to be presented to the full Board at a Board Meeting.

The organisation currently has 15 categories of risk including Governance, Finance & Funding, Human Resources, Operations/Infrastructure, Reputation, Programme Delivery, Law & Compliance, Technology & Business Continuity, Political, Environmental, Expanding Geographical Programme areas, Communication Marketing & Branding, Safeguarding, Covid-19 and GPR/Data Protection. Each category includes a number of risks, and each risk is scored in terms of likelihood (i.e. the probability of future occurrence, how likely the risk it is that the risk will occur and how frequently it has occurred in the past.); impact (i.e. the impact on the organisation and external stakeholders if the risk occurs) and effectiveness of existing controls (i.e. given the controls which are currently in place, how effective are they at mitigating the risk.)

At the time of writing this report the top five organisational risks are outlined below:

Risk table

Definition	Category	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of Impact	Mitigation strategies
Global Crisis (including Ukraine)	Political	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising and Funding plan in place; Income Strategy • Recruitment FR Roles – WIP June 2023; Donor communications around situation in the horn of Africa – impact of Ukraine on lives etc.; Continue with strong, innovative fundraising campaigns
Political events – impacts delivery of programmes	Political	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Plan in place • Daily/regular monitoring – Crisis24, INSO Kenya, Irish Embassy, Media etc. • Monitoring ongoing situation in horn of Africa
Increased cost of living in Kenya; rising prices; rising poverty – greater needs therefore greater demands on organisation	Covid-19	H	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement Value for Money approach across programmes. Through feedback mechanism, adjust programmes where necessary and appropriate to fill a need. Increase in programme budgets to cover rising food costs – update donors.
Allegation of or incident of safeguarding violation against staff/volunteer	Reputational	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff/volunteers trained in safeguarding; sign adherence to policies; Safeguarding officer/ process in place; beneficiaries made aware of safeguarding rights and processes.
Reputational damage to BCW due to ongoing charity sector scrutiny	Reputational	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance with all governance codes, charity and legal regulations.

Schedule of matters reserved for the Board

The Delegation of Authority Policy outlines the following matters reserved for the Board.

The Board of Directors:

- Has 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.
- Is responsible for the strategic direction of Brighter Communities Worldwide. They develop, own and review the strategy of the organisation. The delivery of the strategy is delegated to the CEO.
- Provides policies to govern operational activity.
- Ensures resources are provided for the organisation.
- Must safeguard the ethos of Brighter Communities Worldwide and ensure PR material reflects that ethos.
- Is responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including money, insurance and legalities.
- Is responsible for Staff Appointments and Management of Staff.
- Agree national events and fundraising strategies.
- Is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of Brighter Communities Worldwide's Strategic Plan.
- Is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of organisation.
- Must ensure that the organisation complies with its own governing document, relevant laws, and the requirements of any regulatory bodies.
- Is responsible for the approval of the budget of the organisation.
- Are expected to represent the organisation at certain events.
- Will endeavour to comply with the Dóchas Charter in all that it does.

Plans for the future

We believe that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future. Our development model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and this will continue throughout 2023. We will leverage our learnings and achievements from 2022 to continue to work in partnership with our partner organisation in Kenya as the impacts of the pandemic continue. Kenya will continue to manage the social, health and economic impacts from Covid-19, conflict and climate change.

Brighter Communities Worldwide began a new 3-year programme with Irish Aid in October 2021 through its Civil Society Fund. Brighter Communities Worldwide was awarded a total of €960,000 over 3

years (€320,000 per year) to support its "Transformed Communities, Brighter Futures" project. The overall aim of this project is for women and girls to reach their full potential leading healthier, more resilient and productive lives through a transformative community approach.

The project aims to achieve three outcomes including: Community members especially women and girls will have better health outcomes; Healthier and safer school learning environments for students and teachers and empowered equitable communities who have the ability to bring about positive change.

Friends of Kipkelion has committed to its partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide until 2030. This partnership enables both parties to implement programmes together in health, education and economic empowerment in Kenya. It includes maternal, new-born and child health; FGM/C Abandonment; Community Health Strategy and the Healthy Schools Programme.

2019–2024 Strategic Plan

Brighter Communities Worldwide began a new strategic plan on 1 January 2019 for a five year period. This strategic plan was developed as a result of a comprehensive review of our previous strategic plan, an environmental review and an inclusive stakeholder engagement process. This strategy is based on four goals:

1. Implement holistic, impactful programs that contribute to the global development agenda (SDGs)
2. Build effective strategic relationships
3. Strengthen organisational capacity
4. Ensure strong governance

The strategic plan is translated into the Operational Plan for Ireland which is monitored on a monthly basis. A mid-term evaluation of our Strategic Plan took place in 2022, and it was agreed that due to the Covid-19 pandemic to extend the strategic plan by one year to the end of 2024.

2023 organisational strengthening

Our current business plan (2017-2021) ended in 2021, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic was extended to 31 December 2022. The plan supports our strategic direction and identifies key areas where the organisation will focus on to support its growth and development. A new plan will be developed during 2023 to enable us to build on the learnings of the current plan, and continue to support the strengthening and development of the organisation.

2023 development programmes

At the time of preparing this Annual Report the context across the Horn of Africa continues to be of concern – the threat of famine, food insecurity, and climate change will have implication across all programmes. The soaring cost of living, the recent Kenyan budget and the low Covid-19 vaccination rates increase the vulnerability of the communities we work with. We will continue to leverage our learnings, build on our 20 year experience, and continue to prioritise the needs of those we work with throughout 2023.

2023 income

In 2022 we engaged consultants to support the development of a 3-year income strategy for the organisation. The aim of the strategy is to enable us to diversify and strengthen our income into the future – building on our experience and learnings to date. The fundraising plan for 2023 was approved by the Board in January 2023. It was developed by the Fundraising Sub-Committee leveraging the experience and learnings of Covid-19. We will continue to innovate across all fundraising channels to reach our targets for 2023. Our fundraising will combine online campaigns, in-person campaigns and we will continue to avail of the opportunities that the Global Giving platform presents throughout the year (matched funding, bonus awards etc.).

Structure, governance and management

Organisational structure

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by the Board of Directors who are responsible for directing the affairs of the organisation ensuring it is solvent, well-run and delivering the outcomes for which it was established to deliver. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of Brighter Communities Worldwide, safeguards the ethos of the organisation and is responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including finance, insurance and legal requirements. The Directors have responsibility for, and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of Brighter Communities Worldwide. Systems of internal control are in place which are designed 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 and regular review at Board level. The Chief Executive Officer is not a member of the Board and attends Board meetings. The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the staff Team.

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Board currently has eight members, 71% of whom are women. Their professional biographies are available on the Brighter Communities Worldwide website: tinyurl.com/BCWPeople. During 2022 the board met seven times (2021: ten times), with an average attendance of 84% (2021: 90%).

Attendance at Board of Directors meetings and membership of sub committees

Name	Appointed	Attendance	Skills/profile	Sub committees
Sean O Sullivan	2018	5/7	35 years of experience in business and enterprise. Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office South Cork.	Executive, Fundraising
Linden Edgell	2017	7/7	Social Specialist for 20+ years; Global Director of Sustainability & head of the Corporate Foundation for an international consulting firm.	Executive, Company Secretary
Andrew Bird	2020	7/7	Dairy and tillage farmer; wealth of board experience with involvement at board level across many organisations.	
Anne Healy	2018	7/7	Clinical Nurse Manager 2 qualified in emergency nursing and Midwifery.	
Avril Warren	2020	2/2	Chartered Accountant with 20+ years' experience; Senior Finance Manager for large international firm; previous work in development.	Finance, Audit and Risk (Chairperson)
Eileen Moore	2021	6/7	Senior IT professional with 20+ years' experience in Financial Services.	Human Resources
Catherine Donohoe	2021	7/7	Hospital Manager of Mayo University Hospital; Previous Director of Nursing and Midwifery.	
Roisin O'Neill	2021	4/7	Events Executive experienced in digital and virtual event management	Fundraising
Eileen Moore	2021	2/2	Senior IT professional with 20+ years' experience in Financial Services.	
Catherine Donohoe	2021	2/2	Hospital Manager of Mayo University Hospital; Previous Director of Nursing and Midwifery.	
Roisin O'Neill	2021	1/2	Events Executive experienced in digital and virtual event management	Fundraising

Appointment of Directors

A Board renewal process is in place whereby Directors are recruited through networking by the Board and supporters. Candidates for appointment to the Board are identified based on the Board's requirements for expertise to complement the existing Board member skills and any specific needs that have been identified. This begins with the board identifying the gaps and expertise needed in the board. Candidates are then identified by Board members. These candidates are invited to submit an application to the board. The Board reviews the applications, voting takes place and the Chairperson informs the new board members.

New Directors participate in an induction programme to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and are aware of the governance requirements of the charity. One board member resigned during 2022. Continuous support is provided to Board members throughout their term including training and development related to their role on the Board. Training is provided on changes to best practice in corporate governance, charities regulation and development from time to time and where there are significant developments, these are highlighted at a board meeting. Some Board members also participate in charity and related sector networks and peak bodies to ensure the Board is abreast of new information. Throughout 2022 Board members attended several online meetings, workshops and webinars hosted by Dóchas, Charities Institute Ireland, Charities Regulatory Authority among others and relevant information was circulated to Board members.

Directors are appointed to serve a three-year term of office. Each director is required to submit themselves for re-election every three years at the Annual General Meeting. All Directors may serve a maximum of two, three-year terms, except in very exceptional circumstances when a further term can be served. A recent example of this mechanism being used was during the Covid-19 pandemic when we extended board member terms in order to provide board stability and experience.

Board sub committees

The Board has a number of sub committees including Audit, Human Resources (HR), Executive and Fundraising. The chairperson for each of these provides an update at each Board meeting as to activities undertaken and decisions made. The term of office for members of all sub-committees is three years with an option to renew for a further three-year term.

The **Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee** formed in February 2021 following a review of the

previous Audit Committee's terms of reference.

The committee provides guidance on the long-term financial planning of the organisation and supports the continuous improvement of financial systems to efficiently meet organisational needs. The committee assists in the internal and external audit processes and provides oversight on the implementation and continuous improvement of risk measures and quality controls. The FAR Committee ceased in mid-2022. A board member has responsibility for our risk portfolio and the organisation engaged a third party reviewer as part of the 2022 audit process. The organisation is reviewing the role of the FAR Committee in 2023.

The **Human Resources (HR) Committee** is responsible for the Annual Review of the CEO covering both performance and remuneration. It advises on training needs for staff and deals with any HR issues that may arise. This committee also ensures that Brighter Communities Worldwide keeps up to date with changes in Irish Labour Law.

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for ensuring that Board decisions are implemented, and to deal with any urgent matters. They authorise volunteer projects and approve visits to Kenya when required. They provide oversight of resourcing matters and communicate emerging issues to the Board – particularly important during the pandemic in the past year. The Executive Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The **Fundraising Committee** is responsible for the overall fundraising strategy, and its implementation. They propose annual draft fundraising targets for the organization to be agreed by the Board. They also make recommendations to the Board on budgets, hiring, management and oversight of fundraising staff members and provide ongoing support to fundraising staff with the assistance of external advisers where required. The fundraising committee meets at least once a month. It meets more frequently should the need arise for example the start of a new fundraising campaign. The committee includes one Board member, CEO, Operations Manager and the Communications Coordinator.

Brighter Communities Worldwide Board members are responsible for specific portfolios. These include Governance – Organisational; Governance-Compliance; Communications; Partnering; Global Citizenship Education; Volunteer; Funding; Continuous Quality Management; HR; Safeguarding; Audit and Fundraising.

Staff and operations

Day to day operations are undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer and Operations Manager. 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. In 2022 Brighter Communities Worldwide contracted expertise in Communications (Social Media, Marketing) to support its operations.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a strong volunteering ethos. It has a team of 40 volunteers in Ireland who support the operations including fundraising, campaigning, and administration. A Volunteer Coordinator is in place. The Coordinator is responsible for overseeing Volunteer activities within Brighter Communities Worldwide. Their duties include recruiting, interviewing and placing Volunteers in different roles based on their qualifications, skills and interests and maintaining accurate Volunteer records for the organisation.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a recruitment policy in place (last reviewed June 2021). This policy outlines its approach to recruitment in the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Human Resources Manual (last reviewed June 2021) which includes its remuneration procedures.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a performance management policy in place (last reviewed in June 2021). This policy includes performance principles, the mandatory activities of planning, developing, and reviewing individual performance and the annual performance management timetable which are applied to all staff employed by the organisation.

Networks and consortia

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a member of Dóchas – the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, The Wheel, Charities Institute Ireland, Irish Development Education Association (IDEA), Esther Alliance, the CHS Alliance, Midleton Chamber of Commerce, Comhlámh and 2into3. Brighter Communities Worldwide leverages its membership of these organisations to advocate, gain knowledge and advice, network with other organisations and share learnings.

Governance codes

Brighter Communities Worldwide has adopted the Charities Regulatory Authority Charities Governance Code, and during 2022 it reviewed the charities compliance across all six principles. The Board reviewed its compliance in September 2022 and

agreed that the organisation is compliant across all six principles of the code. It completed the obligatory reporting to the Charities Regulatory Authority in October 2022.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a **Conflict of Interest** policy in place (last reviewed in September 2022) and all potential conflicts of interest are dealt with by the Executive Committee. Directors/Trustees and staff have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of Brighter Communities Worldwide, and in accordance with Brighter Communities Worldwide's governing documents. This policy will assist charity trustees of Brighter Communities Worldwide to effectively identify record and manage any conflicts of interest to protect the integrity of Brighter Communities Worldwide and to ensure that the charity trustees act in the best interest of their charity. Annually each Board member completes a Declaration of Interests form. The Company Secretary compiles all forms and maintains the Register of Interests. Conflict of Interests is a standing item on each Board meeting agenda to enable any Conflicts of Interest pertaining to the agenda of the board be dealt with.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a **Conflict of Loyalty** policy in place (last reviewed April 2021) and all potential conflicts of loyalty are dealt with by the Executive Committee. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Code of Conduct for Directors in place, and all Directors are obliged to comply with this code.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are members of the Charities Institute Ireland and we operate our fundraising programme to the Triple Lock Standard. This means we demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors and comply with best practice in governance and transparency.

Charities Regulatory Authority

Brighter Communities Worldwide is compliant with the requirements of the Charities Regulatory Authority and submitted its annual report before the deadline of 31 October 2022.

Board performance

Brighter Communities Worldwide undertook a self-evaluation process during 2022. Each board member completed a questionnaire on the key areas of board roles and responsibilities and this fed into ongoing board development.

Finance

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)

standard and with the Dóchas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. Brighter Communities Worldwide publishes its Annual Accounts on line every year and these are available on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWFinance.

Directors expenses, staff remuneration and pensions

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 Brighter Communities Worldwide's Expense Policy.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the HR Committee and no increments have been approved in 2022. The pay of other staff is reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the HR Committee. Brighter Communities Worldwide pays pension allowances for its CEO (direct contribution scheme) and has a PRSA scheme in place should any employee wish to avail of this.

Investments

Brighter Communities Worldwide does not have any investments in place.

Equality and diversity

Brighter Communities Worldwide is committed to supporting the communities that we work with to achieve change in their lives that will empower them and improve the health, education and economy of their household. We believe this change happens through valuing diversity in communities and building programmes that give equal access according to the needs of the people. We have a policy on **Equality and Diversity** (last reviewed July 2021) to provide the organisation with a frame of reference to follow to ensure our equality statement is integrated into all that we do and to honour our legal responsibilities and obligations.

Communications strategy

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a communications strategy in place which is renewed annually. This sets out the key messages to be used in all communications.

Dóchas Charter

Brighter Communities Worldwide are signatories to the [Dóchas Charter](#) which outlines what it means to be a member of Dóchas and the principles that define the relationships between Dóchas, the member organisations and the wider world. The leaders of Ireland's International development and humanitarian

NGOs are committed to creating a world where justice, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights are the norm. This includes ensuring that those who work in and with our organisations, and communities and children, with whom we work, are kept safe from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. We do this through robust and effective approaches to safeguarding which, in turn, enable organisations to deliver programmes and activities of the highest standard.

Dóchas Safeguarding Code

Brighter Communities Worldwide are signatories to the [Dóchas Safeguarding Code](#) – we are committed to creating a world where justice, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights are the norm. This includes ensuring that those who work in and with our organisations, and communities and children, with whom we work, are kept safe from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. We will do this through robust and effective approaches to safeguarding which, in turn, enable us to deliver programmes and activities of the highest standard.

Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a signatory of the [Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages](#) and commits to applying the Code's principles for all their communications. Brighter Communities Worldwide strives to support the Code's implementation and to promote it across all members of staff, as well as partners, contractors and the wider NGO sector. By signing the Code, Brighter Communities Worldwide commits to a set of principles, ensuring that it will avoid stereotypical or sensational images, respect the dignity and equality of all people portrayed and promote fairness, solidarity and justice through all its communications. Brighter Communities Worldwide also agrees a number of commitments to ensure the Code's principles are implemented throughout all activities of the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide has adhered to the seven mandatory principles of the Code during 2022. All feedback and comments on Brighter Communities Worldwide's compliance with the Code can be sent to Brighter Communities Worldwide's Code Champion (details on the website) Rose Hennessy: rosehennessy@brightercommunities.org

Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP)

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a signatory of the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP) for Volunteer Sending Agencies. Comhlámh Code of Good Practice is a set of standards for Irish Volunteer Sending Agencies facilitating international placements.

The Code is based on a vision of volunteers working in solidarity for a just, equitable and sustainable world. It promotes responsible and responsive volunteering to ensure a positive impact for the overseas project and community, the volunteer and the sending agency. The Code promotes development education, which enables people to more deeply understand the world around them and to address the root causes of inequality and poverty. Every Volunteer Sending Agency, which is party to the Code of Good Practice, commits to the implementation of the Code's five values that underpin the work of international volunteer programmes. These are solidarity, respect, social justice, ecological sustainability and integrity. In December 2021 Brighter Communities Worldwide was awarded the Advanced Compliance Award – by Comhlámh. Full details of the Code are [here](#).

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

The CHS sets out nine commitments that organisations involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. Brighter Communities Worldwide submitted its first self-assessment of the CHS in June 2022 in line with the CHS Alliance Verification Scheme. In July 2022 the organisation was approved by the CHS, and this approval is valid until July 2024. Brighter Communities Worldwide is currently working on its improvement plan.

Board initiatives during 2022

The Board has undertaken a number of activities during the year. These activities include:

- Continue to navigate the organisation through the Covid-19 pandemic, and the changing NGO sector.
- Maintain compliance with the Charities Regulator Authority Governance Code for Charities.
- Working with external consultants on a new income strategy for Brighter Communities Worldwide.

Communication with stakeholders

Brighter Communities Worldwide's stakeholders include donors, partners, supporters, volunteers, employees and the communities we work with. We communicate with these stakeholders in a number of ways including donor reports, monthly newsletters, social media updates, website updates, partnership seminars, project meetings, community meetings etc.

Internal controls

The Directors acknowledge their overall responsibility for Brighter Communities Worldwide's internal control system and for reviewing its effectiveness. The

implementation of the internal control system is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer. This system includes financial controls, which enable the Board to meet its responsibilities for the integrity and accuracy of Brighter Communities Worldwide's accounting records.

Key elements of internal control systems include:

- Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Financial Management and Controls policy (last reviewed in June 2022) in place which outlines the processes for expenditure; the recording of all income; use of bank accounts; financial reporting and asset management.
- Procedures and controls systems are included in all partnership agreements/memorandum of understanding and project contracts.
- There is a formal organisational structure in place with clearly defined lines of responsibility, division of duties and delegation of authority;
- A detailed budget is prepared annually which is in line with the Strategic Plan and approved by the Board. At each board meeting, actual spending is compared against budget and prior year to ensure alignment with budget, tight administration control, and value for money;
- The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reports independently to the Board on all aspects of controls and risks; and
- The Board maintains a reserve policy to mitigate the increasing risks of the uncertain economy and to ensure sustainability of our services.

Audit functions

Brighter Communities Worldwide uses SAGE for its management accounts system. The management accounts were reviewed by the Board a total of 5 times during 2022. Brighter Communities Worldwide is audited by Grant Thornton and financial statements and annual reports are published online after the AGM each year. Financial statements are prepared in line with SORP standards and the Companies Act 2014; a disclosure statement on senior management salaries is included.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by and adheres to a number of sector-wide codes of conduct. These are outlined in the Governance section of this report. Brighter Communities Worldwide remains committed to continually strengthening its transparency and accountability in order to maintain trust with the public, donors and partners.

Transparency and accountability

Brighter Communities Worldwide is satisfied that no incidence of fraud or gross financial mismanagement has occurred during the 2022 financial year.

Fundraising

Monitoring of fundraising is a responsibility of the Board of Directors whose role includes ensuring the short-term and long-term viability of the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a fundraising sub-committee whose role feeds into this. Brighter Communities Worldwide has formally adopted and adheres to the Charities Regulator's Guidelines for charitable organisations on fundraising from the public and adheres to the standards outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are members of the Charities Institute Ireland and operate their fundraising programme to the Triple Lock Standard. This means we demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors and comply with best practice in governance and transparency.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting Brighter Communities Worldwide since the financial year end.

Going concern

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Directors and secretary

The directors and secretary that served throughout the financial year are outlined on page 37.

Accounting records

The measures that the Board of Directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment

of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's business address at Lower Ground Floor, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork.

Events after the balance sheet date

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year end which would impact the amounts or disclosures in these financial statements.

Statement on relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with Section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- (a) So far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- (b) each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

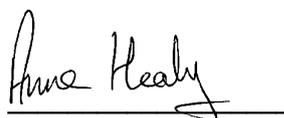
Auditor

The auditor, Grant Thornton, Penrose One, Penrose Dock, Cork continues in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Andrew Bird
Director



Anne Healy
Director

Date: 13 October 2023

Directors' responsibility statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP (FRS102)") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and report of the directors comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

Independent auditor's report

to the members of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows for the financial year ended 31 December 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation of the financial statements is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

In our opinion, Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, namely the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) Ethical Standard concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by Chartered Accountants Ireland, applied as determined to be appropriate in the circumstances for the entity. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the directors, with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

Other information comprises information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies in the financial statements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of our audit, in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on our knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

Under the Companies Act 2014, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act have not been made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Responsibilities of the management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including FRS102, and for such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements

The auditor's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), the auditor will exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. They will also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If they conclude that a material uncertainty exists, they are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify their opinion. Their conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's

report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

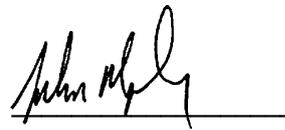
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a true and fair view.

The Auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that may be identified during the audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



John Murphy
For and on behalf of



Chartered Accountants
Statutory Audit Firm

Cork

Date: 16 October 2023

Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
Income		€	€	€	€	€	€
Donations and legacies	3	134,635	-	134,635	201,344	-	201,344
Charitable activities	4	-	401,724	401,724	-	357,167	357,167
Other trading activities	5	214,126	-	214,126	153,888	-	153,888
Total income		348,761	401,724	750,485	355,232	357,167	712,399

Expenditure

Charitable activities	6	189,866	456,164	646,030	147,986	313,483	461,469
Costs of generating income	9	32,604	-	32,604	40,290	-	40,290
Total expenditure		222,470	456,164	678,634	188,276	313,483	501,759

Net surplus (deficit)		126,291	(54,440)	71,851	166,956	43,684	210,640
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Reconciliation of funds:

Total funds brought forward		330,298	215,075	545,373	163,342	171,391	334,733
Total funds at 31 December 2022		456,589	160,635	617,224	330,298	215,075	545,373

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the financial year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €	2021 €
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		596,365	560,218
Debtors	13	26,246	6,359
		622,611	566,577
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(5,388)	(21,204)
Net current assets		617,223	545,373
Total assets less current liabilities		617,223	545,373
Charity funds			
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	17	377,148	305,298
Accumulated funds – restricted	17	215,075	215,075
Accumulated – designated	17	25,000	25,000
		617,223	545,373

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 13 October 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:



Andrew Bird
Director



Anne Healy
Director

The notes on pages 57 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 €	2021 €
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash used by charitable activities	16	36,147	205,045
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the financial year		36,147	205,045
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		560,218	355,162
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		596,365	560,218

Notes to the financial statements

For the financial year ended 31 December 2022

1. General information

Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee is a company incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. In accordance with Section 1180(8) of the Companies Act, 2014, the company is exempt from including the word "Limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

2. Accounting policies

2.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP (FRS102)") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

The functional currency of company is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

As permitted by section 291(3)(4) of the Companies Act 2014, the company has varied the standard formats specified in that Act for the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the Statement of Cash Flows. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP (FRS102) and are in compliance with Sections 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Company meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under FRS102. As a registered charity, the Company is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements to prepare a directors' report under section 325 (1) (c), Companies Act 2014 but does so in compliance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). There is nothing to disclose in respect of directors' interests in shares or debentures of the Company under section 329, Companies Act 2014

2.2. Significant judgements and estimates

When preparing the financial statements, management makes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

Significant management judgements

The following are significant management judgements in applying the accounting policies of the company that have the most significant effect on the financial statements.

Going concern

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, show that the company will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Board has a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Estimation uncertainty

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided below. Actual results may be substantially different.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of fair values and residual values. The directors annually review these asset lives and adjust them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of technological change, prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in asset lives can have significant impact on depreciation charges for the period. It is not practical to quantify the impact of changes in asset lives on an overall basis, as asset lives are individually determined, and there are a significant number of asset lives in use. The impact of any change would vary significantly depending on the individual changes in assets and the classes of assets impacted.

2.3 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The Directors are named on page 3 whose liability along with other members of the company in respect of the guarantee is limited to €1 per member of the company in the event of the company being wound up.

2.4 Fund accounting – restricted and unrestricted

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.5 Income

(i) Income from voluntary donations is recognised when received. As with many similar charitable organisations, independent companies from time to time organise fundraising activities. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by the company.

(ii) Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

(iii) Grants from the government and other agencies are recognised as income when the charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreement. All statutory grants are treated as restricted income.

(iv) Income from legacies are recognised when the likelihood of receipt is probable, the company is entitled to the funds and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(v) Interest income is recognised on a receivable basis.

(vi) Revenue refunds in respect of tax relief on voluntary donations are recognised on a receivable basis in so far as the receivable can be established with a reasonable amount of accuracy.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include multidisciplinary therapy, central nursing supports, transport, catering, administration services and payments to pensioners. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.7 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

Financial assets and liabilities

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.8 Investment policy

All cash balances for planned development work are held in demand deposit accounts or short term investment accounts at the highest interest rates available at the time of investment. Long term investments acquired by donation or through merger will not be held in the long term and will be disposed of within a reasonable time frame.

2.9 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

2.10 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from statutory and other sources, but not yet received at the year end, is included in debtors.

2.11 Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be reliably measured or estimated. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due and at their present value where the time value of money is deemed.

2.12 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

2.13 Reserves policy

In order to secure the long term viability of the charity and to maintain the smooth operation of the organisation, it is critical to ensure that the organisation has adequate reserves. The level of reserves is required to cover the following activities of the organisation:

- Provide funding for sustainable programmes.
- Meet contractual liabilities such as lease agreements, statutory staff payments and payments to creditors.
- Maintain a required level of funding available for overseas programmes during times of financial difficulty where fundraising income is diminished.
- To facilitate programme/project continuation especially where a partner submits a new or additional phase proposal in advance of the current activity being completed, in order to meet seasonal requirements (i.e. farming season) and prevent development gaps.
- Meet unanticipated expenses such as repairs and maintenance, currency variances and legal costs.
- Cover day to day expenditure of the company.
- Ensure there is adequate funding should any incurring up costs ever arise.
- Provide for any other unanticipated expenditure of significance.

The Board may designate unrestricted reserves for specific future expenditure and any other potential future requirement(s). The Board has adopted a reserves policy based on foreseeable expenditure and in particular, long-term commitments to projects.

2.14 Taxation

No charge to tax arises due to the exempt status of the Company. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies.

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2022	2022	2021	2021
	€	€	€	€
Friends of Kipkelion	70,703	-	70,703	122,848
Corporate Donations	12,537	-	12,537	12,000
General Donations	12,668	-	12,668	29,512
Standing orders	24,733	-	24,733	22,929
Taxation refunds	13,994	-	13,994	14,054
	134,635	-	134,635	201,344

4. Charitable activities – income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2022	2022	2021	2021
	€	€	€	€
Charity trading income				
Irish Aid CSF funding	-	320,000	320,000	320,000
Electric Aid	-	10,000	10,000	16,500
Surgeon Noonan	-	5,000	5,000	-
Irish Forum Global Health Esther Alliance	-	5,500	5,500	9,600
SHARP	-	-	-	8,000
For Her Dignity	-	-	-	3,067
JP Mc Manus	-	20,000	20,000	-
Self Help Africa	-	36,234	36,234	-
American Ireland Fund	-	4,990	4,990	-
	-	401,724	401,724	357,167

5. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2022	2022	2021	2021
	€	€	€	€
Walks, runs and marathons	1,336	-	1,336	8,681
Kenya Ball	38,271	-	38,271	-
Merchandise	1,809	-	1,809	10,808
Other fundraising events	172,710	-	172,710	134,399
	214,126	-	214,126	153,888

6. Charitable activities – expenditure

	Direct costs 2022 €	Support costs 2022 €	Total costs 2022 €	Total costs 2021 €
Education projects	193,536	80,726	274,262	127,281
Health including water	240,124	99,753	339,877	310,970
Economic Empowerment	22,504	9,387	31,891	22,729
Development Education	-	-	-	491
	456,164	189,866	646,030	461,471

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following geographic areas:

	Direct costs 2022 €	Support costs 2022 €	Total costs 2022 €	Total costs 2021 €
Kenya	456,164	189,966	646,030	460,978
Ireland	-	-	-	491
	456,164	189,866	646,030	461,469

Field programme expenditure is directly incurred by Brighter Communities Worldwide (Kenya) through grant aid from Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland. Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland has a partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya which is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding. The funds are provided directly to the Kenyan entity to assist them in undertaking approved projects as a result of a detailed application process undertaken in advance of provision of funds.

7. Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 €	Restricted funds 2022 €	Total funds 2022 €	Total funds 2021 €
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	769
Support costs	32,604	-	32,604	39,521
	32,604	-	32,604	40,290

8. Charitable activities – support costs

	Unrestricted funds 2022 €	Restricted funds 2022 €	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021 €
Staff salaries	87,944	16,750	104,694	110,592
Office expenses	9,763	1,658	11,421	12,886
Website & IT	5,171	201	5,372	3,674
Insurance	3,327	634	3,961	3,186
PR/Events	68,355	9,167	77,522	42,330
Governance	9,259	3,793	13,052	12,083
Travel expenses	6,047	401	6,448	2,264
Development Education	-	-	-	491
	189,866	32,604	222,470	187,507

The basis of allocation of the support costs identified above is the percentage of time spent by employees on each activity.

9. Net surplus/(deficit)

	2022 €	2021 €
This is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Government grants	320,000	320,000
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses – audit of the financial statements	8,750	9,750

10. Staff costs

	2022 €	2021 €
Ireland:		
Wages and salaries	83,460	90,510
Social welfare costs	9,222	9,282
Pension costs	12,012	10,880
	104,694	110,672

Where pension costs are incurred in more than one activity, they are apportioned between the related activities based on the amount of staff cost that each activity absorbs. Approximately 84% of defined contribution pension costs are paid from restricted funds.

The average number of employees during the financial year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Ireland	2	2

No employee of the company acts as director. The total remuneration package of the Chief Executive Officer comprised salary of €59,472 (2021: €58,800). No member of staff received remuneration in excess of €60,000 during the financial year (2021: €60,000).

11. Director remuneration and expenses

Directors are not remunerated but are entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of carrying out their duties.

Travel and accommodation expenses relating to meetings of the Board that were reimbursed to the relevant Board members amounted to €Nil in 2022 (2021: €Nil).

12. Key management compensation

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year amounted to €92,682 – 2 staff) (2021: €93,282 – 2 staff).

13. Debtors

	2022	2021
	€	€
Trade debtors	19,877	-
VAT receivable	6,369	6,359
	26,246	6,359

All debtors and prepayments are due within one year.

14. Creditors

(Amounts falling due within one financial year)

	2022	2021
	€	€
Other creditors and accruals	86	15,113
PAYE/PRSI liability	5,302	6,091
	5,388	21,204

15. Financial instruments

	2022	2021
	€	€
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	191	15,114

16. Reconciliation of net deficit to net cash used in charitable activities

	2022	2021
	€	€
Net expenditure for the reporting year	71,850	210,638
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Increase in debtors	(13,518)	(4,403)
Decrease in creditors	(22,185)	(1,190)
Net cash used in charitable activities	36,147	205,045

17. Statement of funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total funds
	2022	2022	2022	2022
	€	€	€	€
(i) Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds at 1 January 2022	334,733	185,640	25,000	545,373
Net surplus for the year	210,640	(138,789)	-	71,851
Fund balances at 31 December 2022	545,373	46,851	25,000	617,224

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total funds
	2022	2022	2022	2022
	€	€	€	€
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds:				
Current assets	566,580	31,032	25,000	622,612
Liabilities	(21,207)	15,819	-	(5,388)
Fund balances at 31 December 2022	545,373	46,851	25,000	617,224

	Balance as at 1 Jan 2022	Income 2022	Expenditure 2022	Balance as at 31 Dec 2022
	€	€	€	€
(iii) Movements in funds:				
Unrestricted funds	305,298	348,761	222,470	431,589
Restricted funds	215,075	401,724	456,164	160,635
Designated funds	25,000	-	-	25,000
Fund balances at 31 December 2022	545,373	750,484	678,634	617,224

Designated funds comprise of the Incident Management Reserve fund of €5,000 (2021: €5,000) and the Operational Reserve fund of €20,000 (2021: €20,000). These funds have been designated by the company for use in the case of an emergency.

Restricted funds comprise of grant income received during the year which has yet to be spent by the organisation.

The Unrestricted funds reserve represents cumulative surpluses and deficits, net of other adjustments.

18. Contingent liabilities

Grant funding received during the financial year from Irish Aid Civil Society Fund of €320,000 may be repayable if it is determined that it was not spent on agreed purposes within twelve months of the allocation of the funds.

19. Membership

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is guaranteed by members to the extent €1 per member.

20. Related party transactions

Directors' transactions

Director's travel and motor expenses were reimbursed during the current and prior financial years. Please see note 11 for details. There were no other transactions to note during the current or prior financial year.

Other related party transactions

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year totalled €92,682 (2021: €93,282).

21. Taxation

The company has been granted charitable status by the Revenue Commissioners. Therefore no provision for taxation is necessary.

22. Post balance sheet events

No post balance sheet events occurred that are required to be disclosed under Section 32 of FRS 102.

23. Controlling party

The company is a limited company by guarantee with no share capital, and is controlled by its Directors.

24. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 13 October 2023.

Help us Create Better Futures

- Volunteer from Kenya, Ireland or around the world
- Join in our fundraising events
- Make a donation
- Leave a legacy
- Buy gifts from our online shop
- Advocate for the people we work with

SHINING A LIGHT ON INEQUALITY

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