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Annual Report



the power of  
**COMMUNITY**



Dear Friends:

When we look back on 2020, we will always remember the hardships and heartbreak experienced by so many due to the global pandemic. It's overwhelming, to say the least. Not one corner of the world was left untouched by COVID-19, and while the number of COVID cases and mortality rates remain relatively low in Kenya, the virus proved detrimental to the country's economy, safety and well-being of individuals and communities.



While I speak to the world's shared suffering, I also must speak to the strength, resiliency and support we demonstrated in the wake of adversity and brokenness throughout the last year. Compassion, hope and gratitude remain a guiding force for the Kenya Works organization—built on the belief that all deserve the right to live with dignity and opportunity, no matter where one lives.

Through it all, we have reaffirmed humanitarian principles and a deep commitment to helping the most vulnerable. I am so very proud of the Kenya Works team, which includes you, our amazing compassionate donors. The strength of community and connection runs deep and finds friends on both sides of this world, working to uplift and join in the humanity that binds us.

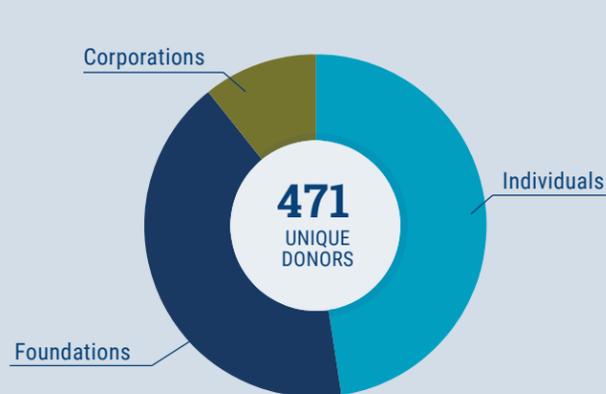
Despite the ups and downs of 2020, Kenya Works had an exceptional year. We stretched and grew in ways we planned for and ways we couldn't have predicted. We approached each challenge with a positive outlook and reached a record number of students and families. Like the old saying goes, when times get tough, the tough get going. Our team is strong and nimble and ready for what this new year will bring.

We make a powerful team, rising to address inequalities and empower communities to grow, heal and flourish. I thank each and every one of you!

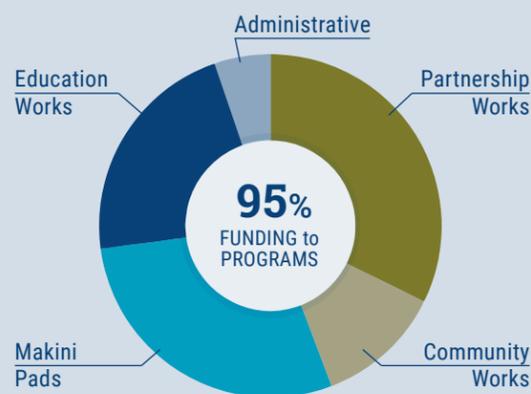
Together, poverty is no match.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Donations: \$522,595



Expense: \$599,876



Note: Pre-audited financial data



One of the greatest rewards of 2020 was our ability to engage with past Community Works participants through WhatsApp groups. Due to COVID-19 shutdowns, many parents were experiencing tremendous financial stress at the same time families were confined in close quarters. With conditions rife for domestic violence, Kenya Works innovated parent support groups through messaging apps, providing connection and reinforcing skills learnt during past sessions in real time when families needed it most.

Michael Adie  
Community Works Program Manager

## 2020 HIGHLIGHTS From the Team

COVID-19 presented a very challenging situation to our students. Children were facing hunger due to school closures, and families were facing unbearable conditions.

Kenya Works was there. Providing food stuffs, sanitary towels and text books for children across Homa Bay was a lifeline for hungry stomachs and minds.

This inspired such hope at a time when the situation had become unbearable to many students.

Kenedy Omondi  
Homa Bay County Consultant



At Miale ya Tumaini, we began 2020 opening doors to more children with our expanded shelter. The fallout of the pandemic struck hardest the most vulnerable children. When a local facility serving special needs children closed its doors, thanks to you, our doors were open. Our children welcomed the new children as family with open hearts and helping hands. I have witnessed such growth, love and community as we walked into the unknown, together.

Diana Wambui Ngugi  
Executive Director  
Miale ya Tumaini

The COVID-19 outbreak threw many Kenyans into the lowest point in their lives.

Kenya Works and VICODEC in partnership came up with far-reaching programs with one aim—to bring great relief to Kenyan communities.

We extended the feeding programs for children who would usually be receiving their meal at the Center and coordinated monthly food supplies for families.

We also continued the production of Kenya Works Makini Pads. In addition to the pad kits, our production team produced face masks using our resources and talents to provide for our community in new and necessary ways.

Joe Wachira  
Executive Director  
VICODEC



## MAKINI PADS

Period poverty—the lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets and/or waste management—has increased during the pandemic as schools closed and supply chains and humanitarian aid were disrupted.

Kenya Works Makini Pads are made in Kenya, and widely regarded as a leading reusable pad kit solution. In conjunction with our deep community and government connections, the Kenya Works team was able to navigate across closed county lines during the pandemic and quickly respond to critical need.

For example, when disturbing reports of girls in Tana River showed girls digging holes to sit over while menstruating, Kenya Works was there to partner with community leaders on a girls mentoring workshop and Makini Pad distribution. Through partnership we educate and successfully advocate for girls' rights, value and dignity.

Because periods shouldn't stop girls from reaching their full potential, not even in a pandemic.



## EDUCATION WORKS

For many students in Kenya, the prolonged school closure due to the pandemic interrupted more than learning. Schools are also the source of the primary nutrition many children rely on throughout the country.

With countrywide shutdowns in place, families struggling with the burden of poverty faced a double threat when parents weren't able to work and needed to provide more food for the household.

Kenya Works supported our sponsored students and their families by providing monthly bulk food supplies for the three-month period of school closure. In addition to engaging kids through food distributions, we stayed connected with each child to ensure they were staying safe and healthy, provided text books, and mentored secondary students through our Pay It Forward service project.



## COMMUNITY WORKS

Human rights outreach was more important than ever as pandemic fallout put the most vulnerable at risk for violence and human rights violations.

In quick response to worsening conditions for girls, Kenya Works developed a one-day forum to intervene on rising cases of child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and teen pregnancy. Leveraging our deep partnerships with government and community leaders, we were able to travel across closed county lines, combining critical need distribution of bulk food, sanitary pad kits and face masks while championing safety for girls.

Another key effort was regularly connecting with past workshop attendees through WhatsApp, supporting parents during the high stress pandemic conditions.

The team also conducted "Stop the Spread" open-air broadcasts and in-person forums to raise community awareness on COVID-19 mitigation in densely populated areas.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKS

Miale ya Tumaini, a Kenya Works-funded partner, is a haven for children suffering from hunger and abuse in the Nairobi-slum settlements area.

Having completed a facility expansion late the prior year, Miale began 2020 with increased space to provide shelter and care for children in the child welfare system.

After the pandemic broke out, a local residence serving special-needs children lost its funding leaving its seven residents without food, shelter or special care. While Miale is staffed with counseling and social work professionals, the center had never housed special-needs children.

Knowing the staff and long-term youth residents would rise to the community need, Miale welcomed the entire group as family with open hearts and helping hands. Children helped one another—able-bodied and special needs—all empowered by working together to raise up our community.



# 2020 IMPACT

Kenya Works empowers Kenyans in vulnerable circumstances to overcome poverty and tackle key human rights issues. We invest in four focused strategies: ending period poverty, developing human rights through community education, advancing education through sponsorships and school building grants, and working in close partnership with several locally run Kenyan Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

When COVID-19 and country closures rocked the fragile stability of Kenya's most vulnerable populations, Kenya Works was able to navigate travel restrictions and quickly adapt service delivery to meet changing needs. We leveraged the deep community and government relationships we have created over the past fifteen years, rapidly mobilizing to be there for people when and where they needed it most.

## MAKINI PADS

25,000  
Girls  
Received

13,000  
Masks  
Produced

287  
Partner  
Organizations

34  
Production  
Staff

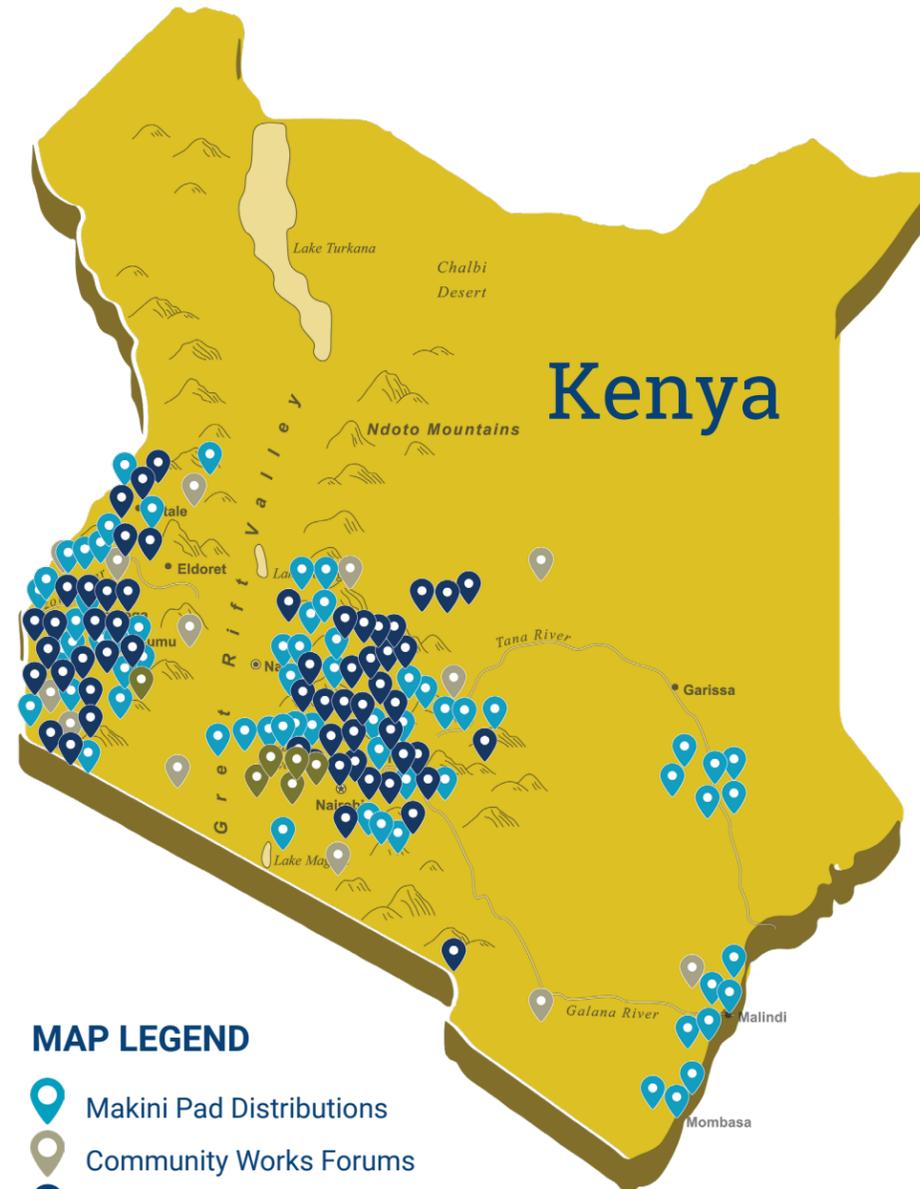
## EDUCATION WORKS

385  
Students  
Sponsored

697  
Families  
Received  
Bulk Food

1,925  
Masks  
Provided

9,494  
Student  
Service  
Hours



### MAP LEGEND

- Makini Pad Distributions
- Community Works Forums
- Education Works School Partners
- Partnership Works CBOs

The map shows our cumulative footprint developed over the past 15 years. With a presence in 33 of Kenya's 47 counties, Kenya Works' vast footprint allowed us to quickly adapt, connect, travel and deliver impact when and where it was most needed most—even during the pandemic.

## COMMUNITY WORKS

1,251  
Girls  
Trained

1,500  
COVID  
Outreach

572  
Parents  
Trained

3,000  
Masks  
Provided

## PARTNERSHIP WORKS

1,842,605  
Plates  
Served

19,710  
Nights  
Shelter

213  
Children  
Rescued

7  
Special  
Needs Children at  
Miale ya Tumaini



Partnering with communities,  
expanding opportunities

PO Box 1572  
Appleton, WI 54912



/kenyaworks.org  
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## BOARD of DIRECTORS

Julie Schaller-Schmidt,  
**Executive Director**

Scott Ehlers  
Alison Fiebig  
Anne Morrissey  
Pam Swick  
Jillian Torres  
Marjorie Young



The year 2020 gave me an amazing opportunity to build our partnership with Girl Rising International. I was honored to be recognized by the organization as a “Change Maker.” It was so rewarding to share the Kenya Works story of empowering adolescent girls hence overcoming period poverty and completing their education. Kenya Works provides powerful programs for girls at the time they need it most.

Caroline Gitau  
Kenya Works Program Coordinator



With the crises of teenage pregnancies, early marriages and high rise in FGM cases amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya Works championed girls’ rights to ensure girls achieve their full human potential. We conducted several mentorship programs across the country in partnership with county officials, media alliances, CBOs and churches. We kept hope alive through the power of partnership.

Benjamin Makori  
Kenya Works Social Worker