



**2017 Africa Bridge
Annual Impact Report**



Letter from the Board

Dear Friends,



With your support, we've continued to make meaningful progress in changing the lives of vulnerable children in rural Tanzania. As you read this report, you will see how far your investment goes toward spreading hope through impoverished communities and providing tools that help families achieve economic independence. You'll also learn how we've refined some of the five-year program's services to more effectively engage vulnerable children and their guardians. In a dynamic international environment, we're always ready to learn and incorporate new and relevant approaches into our work.

We expanded Africa Bridge's reach last year, partnering in the fall with three villages in Kambasegela Ward. In extending our impact, we faced one of our biggest challenges yet—this is the poorest ward Africa Bridge has worked with to date and the needs are vast. Your belief in the mission stoked our enthusiasm to meet the task head on. In the first quarter alone, we reached 985 vulnerable children and their families to begin planning for the ward's future and to establish leadership committees that will guide the program's implementation.

On the other end of the project timeline, Lufingo Ward closed out the year by beginning its final steps toward completion of our sustainable development program. While the official graduation will take place later this year, co-op membership steadily expanded in 2017 to change the economic outlook for more families. With hundreds of chicks and nearly 50 calves born last year, signs point toward continued co-op membership growth, improved household nutrition, and new family income. You helped create these important changes and we look forward to sharing the celebration with you.

In the past year, we grew the professional staff in Tanzania and moved into an improved office space. In the U.S., we recently welcomed a new executive director, Sharon Brabenac, who is partnering with Program Director Fred Urembo and the board of directors to pursue Africa Bridge's next level of strategic growth. 2018 is off to a great start with a strong team working to make a lasting difference in vulnerable children's lives.

We still have quite a lot of work to do, and we couldn't do any of it without you. Thank you for your continued advocacy, belief in, and support of Africa Bridge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Wire". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Katie Wire
Board Chair

Our Mission

We empower Tanzanian families to protect, support, and care for vulnerable children by helping villages implement sustainable social service and economic solutions.



Our Five-Year Program for Sustainable Economic Development and Independence

Listen to the Children

We start by listening to the children to learn about their lives, needs, and ideas for change.

Partner with the Villagers

We bring men, women, and children together as equals to plan for their community's future.

Organize the Community

We form village committees and help them develop care-giving and management skills to support vulnerable children.

Assist with Education & Healthcare

We support children's access to education and instruct villagers on healthcare, including HIV/AIDS prevention.

Build Economic Independence

We create income-generating crop or livestock co-ops for families caring for vulnerable children.

Create Entrepreneurs & Investors

We provide intensive training, operating procedures, and micro-loans that help spark new business endeavors.

Partner with Villagers

The leadership in the villages is key to the success of Africa Bridge's model. In Kambesegala Ward, the villagers selected members for the Ward Steering Committee consisting of a ward counselor, a ward executive officer, representatives from each village, two children representatives, agricultural extension officers, education coordinators, clinical officers, a village executive officer of the hosting village, and all Africa Bridge staff. Each village developed a work-plan to enable them to achieve a viable project that will provide the best future for the most vulnerable children.

Listen to the Children



Our first step when we begin to work in a new ward is to listen to the children. We do this initially through Future Search Meetings where the children can share their stories with us. In August 2017, we had a three-day meeting in Kambasegela Ward, which is made of three villages. There were eight children from each village for a total of 24 participants.

On the first day, the children were all encouraged to think critically and present their honest thoughts and feelings of the past, the present, and what they hope for in the future. On the second day, the children focused on four main challenges that they all faced.

Challenges were:

Education:

- Lack of school uniforms
- Shortage of desks
- Not enough teachers, textbooks, or classrooms
- Poor latrines

Health:

- Lack of proper information and knowledge about HIV and AIDS
- High cost of medical care
- Distance from medical facilities; only two medical facilities in the ward
- Common occurrences of malaria and other communicable diseases such as diarrhea and cholera

Care and support:

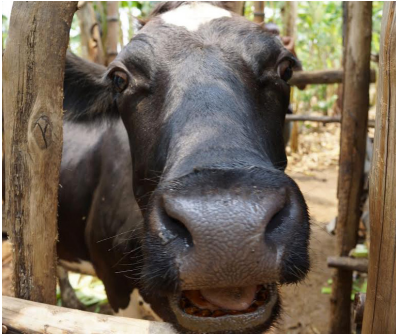
- Challenges when parents die
- Abandonment by parents and relatives
- Poverty of parents and guardians

Agriculture and livestock:

- Lack of adequate farm inputs to support farming activities
- Diseases that often attack crops and livestock
- Floods and drought

Build **Economic Independence**

Africa Bridge provides a pathway to economic independence for caretakers of vulnerable children. This is done by establishing crop and livestock co-ops, providing start-up loans to co-op members, and offering intensive training. Repayments of co-op loans from villagers go back into the co-ops, so they can expand their memberships to other impoverished families caring for vulnerable children. In addition to becoming the key to economic security for families, these co-ops are expected to repay a portion of their loans to provide a long-term source of support for the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) Committees. In these ways, the MVC Committees and co-ops are interdependent and reinforcing. In 2017 the following was achieved:



- Africa Bridge's cow co-op grew to 404 members in Kisondele and Lufingo Wards; 27 cow co-op loans were repaid
- 47 calves were born and 443 chickens were born
- Chicken co-op membership grew by 36 percent
- 1,918 lbs of avocados were harvested by 47 co-op members with more than 14,000 trees being tended

Organize the **Community**

Africa Bridge has always been committed to working with village leaders to implement our program. In 2017, we added new part-time employees we call Empowerment Workers (EWs) to help us in many of the villages. EWs are community members recruited by Africa Bridge from local areas. They receive training to assist us in working with the vulnerable children and their families. By the end of 2017, we hired 13 EWs to serve in nine different villages. Their addition is a win/win because it helps us improve our operations and provides jobs in the villages.

Initial training sessions for Empowerment Workers included the following:

- Psychosocial care and support services for MVC Committees
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Parenting skills
- Livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills
- Data collection processes and methods
- Community counseling enhancement
- Sharing about the mission, vision, core values and strategic plans



This Is My Village (TIMV) Supporters



This Is My Village is a five-year giving commitment that supports Africa Bridge's model of sustainable improvement and connects donors to a specific village. Throughout the five years, TIMV donors receive special updates on program progress and improved village conditions. We are very grateful for these committed donors and their generous contributions to Africa Bridge.

Bugoba

Gregory Corbin & Margaret Frey

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Marsha Kyle

Janeen & Mal McAninch

Linda & Mike McGarr

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Darci & Charlie Swindells

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Katie & Ben Wire

Ellen & John Worcester

If you would like to join a village and become part of this supportive group of individuals, please contact Ana Rau at ana@africabridge.org

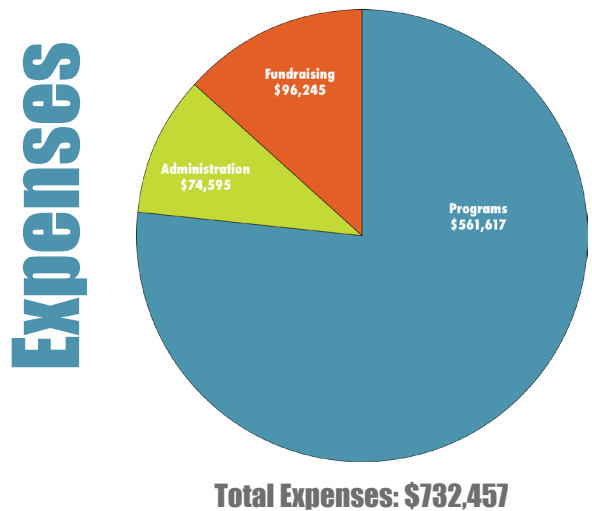
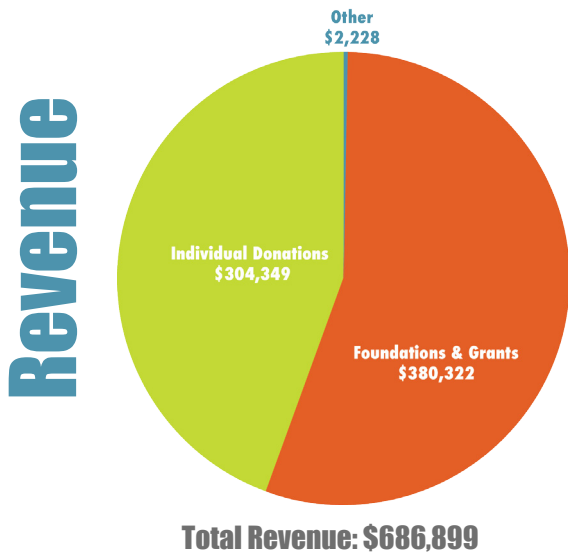
This is My School (TIMS) Supporters



Lincoln Middle School: \$1,533
 Riverdale School District: \$385
 Rosemont Ridge Middle School: \$1,000
 Stafford Primary School: \$7,798
 Wood Middle School: \$512

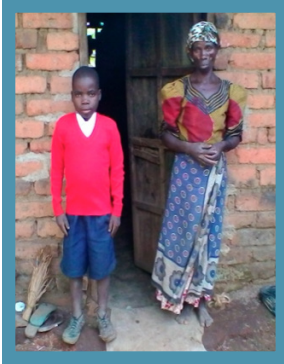
In 2017, Oregon-area schools raised funds for 314 desks to be built and delivered to six primary schools in Kisondele Ward, getting kids off dirt floors and giving them more room to learn. Additionally Africa Bridge programming provided 444 vulnerable children with school uniforms, materials, and shoes, helping more children get an education and better their futures. Africa Bridge believes students can be global citizens making educational impacts around the world!

2017 Financials



In 2017, the need for increased programming was severe; therefore, services were expanded to a new ward that serves even more vulnerable children and families. In 2018, Africa Bridge plans to increase fundraising efforts.

THE SUCCESS STORY OF **SHIJA MAYALA**



Shija Mayala is one of the most vulnerable children being supported by Africa Bridge in Ndubi Village, Kisondele Ward. He is 11 years old and studies at Kisa Primary School in standard four.

Shija is under the care of his widowed, aging mother. Together they live in a small rented room.

Shija and his mother used to live in severe poverty. She used to work as a casual laborer in other people's fields to earn a meager income to support her son.

This was shared by Shija's mother during an interview with our staff:

“... I used to work as a casual labor[er] in other people's farms and was earning about 300 to 500 shillings per day [which equates to 13 to 22 cents in U.S. currency]. This was a very small amount of money [that] I could not support my family and feed my only son....”

“...we used to have only one meal a day...and in other days, we used to sleep without having any meal...”

Prior to Africa Bridge's support, Shija did not attend school regularly and his teachers punished him due to of his frequent absenteeism.

Psychosocial support was facilitated by Africa Bridge staff, members of the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) Committee, and Empowerment Workers (EWs). They visited Shija, spoke with his mother, and learned the reason why Shija was not going to school. He said his school uniform was worn out and his friends in class used to tease him, making him feel embarrassed to go to school.

After hearing the story, the EWs and MVC Committee members conducted a counseling session with Shija and decided to buy him a new uniform. The staff also met with his teachers and other students to share with them the problem of stigma and its impact.

Children are encouraged to live together in love and try to support one another. Shija is now a very happy boy, he attends the school regularly and he has a new school uniform. Now teachers and other children are friendly to him and they support him.

In addition, Africa Bridge has supported Shija's family to establish a chicken coop. As part of the co-op project, they are able to sell eggs and meat, providing additional income for their family.



Our Tanzanian Staff



Fredrick Urembo, Program Director

Fred has a master's degree in public health and leads field operations in Tanzania, including program implementation and management. Fred brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in program development, management, and application of services to Africa Bridge.



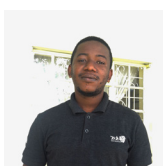
Martha Mbanda, Program Manager

Martha is a results-oriented manager who has helped deliver Africa Bridge's field operations for the past 13 years. Her skills run the gamut from leading our huge kick-off Future Search sessions to organizing Children's Club meetings to training villagers.



Denis Mketo, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

Denis received his bachelor's degree from the University of Dar es Salaam. As a qualified monitoring, evaluation and reporting manager, Denis leads on evaluating systems, developing implementation strategies, and applying different analytical approaches for Africa Bridge.



Kelvin Ngonyani, Most Vulnerable Children's Committee Assistant

Kelvin has a background in psychosocial care, youth sexual reproductive health, and early child development. Kelvin has a bachelor's degree from St. Augustine University of Tanzania. Kelvin works in MVC case management, and support services for MVC and community-based Children's Clubs.



Ponsiano Lupoli, Co-op Coordinator

Ponsiano has a diploma in animal health and production, and has field experience in livestock and crop extension work. He works to train and mentor the Africa Bridge co-ops engaging in diverse farming enterprises.



Sarah Paschal, MVCC Coordinator

Sarah has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a strong interest in poverty alleviation. Her skills range from research to training to individual counseling. Her empathic approach helps establish, train, and mentor MVC Committees.



Noel Msuha, Co-op Coordinator

Noel serves as our advisor and supporter of our village co-ops. Noel is a trainer, advisor, and coach, and has been responsible for the launch of 50 village farm co-ops for Africa Bridge.



Devi Shayo, Admin Assistant and Driver

Devi has a background in computer literacy with additional certifications in tourism and hospitality. He has extensive experience driving people safely to needed destinations. Devi helps record and input needed data into Africa Bridge systems.

Our United States Staff



Sharon Brabenac, Executive Director

Sharon joined Africa Bridge in early 2018 and has a master's degree in business administration from Portland State University. She brings extensive leadership and fundraising experience. She creates synergistic relationships that create lasting change for people served by Africa Bridge.



Carl Schwab, Financial Director

Carl joined Africa Bridge in 2016 and has a bachelor's degree in geology from University of California Santa Cruz. With 15 years of experience as owner and financial manager of an environmental consulting and groundwater remediation business, Carl is using his business experience and life-long interest in economics and international development to help guide the growth of Africa Bridge.



Ana Rau, Development Manager

Ana joined Africa Bridge in 2017 and has a master's degree in public administration & nonprofit management from Grand Valley State University. Ana is implementing her knowledge and skills in nonprofit management, volunteerism, and fundraising to support Africa Bridge.

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Teacher

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Director of Business Program Management, Microsoft

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Campaign Manager

Foundations and Grants

In 2017, community foundations provided \$380,322 to support Africa Bridge's farming co-ops and Most Vulnerable Children's (MVC) Committees in Tanzania. Africa Bridge staff facilitated monthly meetings and mentorship meetings for co-op members to expand their knowledge and skills in agriculture and finance. Co-op members developed skills to harvest vegetables, raise animals, and sell those goods for profits. Last year, 443 chicks and 47 calves were born to Africa Bridge co-op members providing more opportunities for financial success. Additionally, foundations provided access for adults to join the MVC Committees; 222 adults participated in MVC Committees, providing support and empowerment for children in their villages. Furthermore, foundations made it possible for 1,585 kids to participate in our community Children's Clubs, providing physical and health education for vulnerable children. Foundations help Africa Bridge's mission and vision become a reality.

Abbott Fund \$30,000

Segal Family Foundation \$30,000

Newman's Own Foundation \$12,000

Vibrant Village Foundation \$308,322

Total Grant Support = \$380,322



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Africa Bridge
PO Box 115
Marylhurst, OR 97036

How You Can **Help**

Our mission is aided with the help of many volunteers.

We are fortunate to have dedicated, talented volunteers working with us in various capacities including board membership, board committees, social media, event planning, and program management.

A special thank you to our wonderful volunteers who served 3,075 hours in 2017!

There are many opportunities for you to participate in substantially improving the lives of vulnerable children in Tanzania.

**Africa Bridge needs your time, talent, and treasure:
Donate Money • Volunteer Time • Offer Your Skills**

Contact us to learn more at info@africabridge.org



Above: Africa Bridge Founder and Purpose Prize winner, Barry Childs, in Tanzania.