



Hope Foundation for African Women

Annual Report

2021



FOREWORD

To our esteemed friends, supporters, and stakeholders

It is wonderful to share with you the progress we have made in the financial year 2021–2022. In this annual report, you will get updates on the projects we have implemented in partnership with organizations such as the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) International Women Leaders of the World, Global Giving, I-Create Media, Thrive Organization, Minto FM, and Kenyatta University. In general, the projects' implementation aligned with our strategic goal and assisted us in identifying areas for growth and opportunities to make a greater impact in the community. Due to the pandemic our work was challenging and resources were limited. However efforts we made positively contributed to keeping the women and girls in Kenya safe, healthy, and financially thriving. We look forward to building on the gains of the past year's work in the coming year. Much appreciation for believing in us from day one. For being our ambassadors on the ground and for being our support system. Creating positive change is certainly an uphill task. We could not have asked for a better friend, supporter, and stakeholder to walk with us on this journey. Thank you.

*Sheila Jane Mutuma
(PhD)*



Mary Nasibi (PhD)



*Grace B Mose Okong'o
(PhD)*



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WHO WE ARE

VISION

A society free of gender inequalities

MISSION

Reduce gender inequalities through economic empowerment, gender advocacy with FGM as a priority, promote sexual, reproductive health and Support human rights in Kenya through Popular Education Model

VALUES

Honesty to ensure HFAW staff and volunteers are trusted and credible in the eyes of all stakeholders
Openness to feedback, ideas to ensure we are creative and innovative
Passion to address the myriad of needs related to gender in the communities. HFAW staff will often have to go out of their way.
Excellence in everything we do. We strive to have done our very best by the time we finish tasks

2021 AT A GLANCE

More than Kshs. 460,000
from HopeKit issued to support women businesses

30 Women Living with Disabilities
Impacted with skills in leadership, business management and financial literacy

200 Youths
Benefited from End-FGM advocacy training

20 Community Health Volunteers
Better skilled in sensitizing the elderly safety-measures to stop the spread of Covid-19, and end-FGM advocacy

45 Young Anti-FGM ambassadors
Mentored on how to be the local force in end-FGM

Over 1000 online users
Engaged with our advocacy and empowerment activities

2 million radio listeners through Minto fm
made deeply aware of the health effects of FGM, End FGM Advocacy, and protecting children's rights

1000 Global Changemakers
Familiarized with HFAW's advocacy activities during Global Giving Fireside Chat, 20th Anniversary

4992 students
spread across universities, secondary and primary schools reached with end-FGM, end-GBV, and Protect Children's rights advocacy messages

270 local community members
Sensitized on hygiene measures to stay safe from Covid-19 and impacted with skills to advocate for the end of FGM in the community

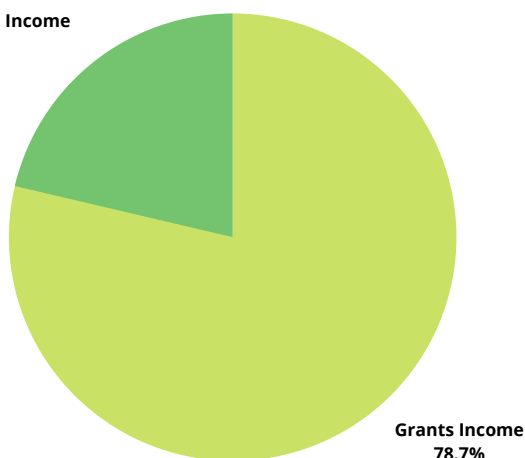
50 Local Bank staff
Trained on identifying and ending GBV among female clients and ending FGM

OUR FINANCES AND EXPENSES IN 2021

HFAW continue being resilient on progress towards sustainability and diligently using the resources available. The graphs below show the income and expenses in 2021 in the year ended.

Income 2021

Public Donations Income
21.3%

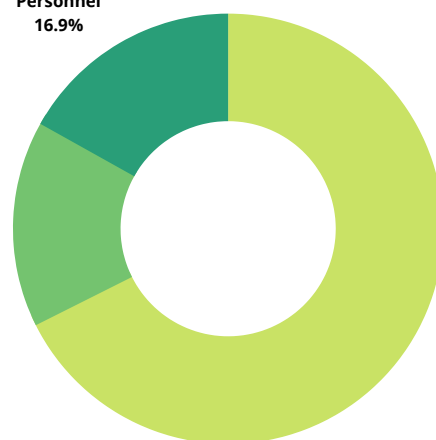


Expenses 2021

Personnel
16.9%

Indirect Programme
15.5%

Direct Programme
67.6%



PROGRAMMES 2021

HOPEKIT FUND

The contribution of women to the economy and elimination of poverty is crucial in achieving the Vision 2030. However, challenges such as lack of affordable sources of capital. This is basic principle of the Hopekit fund, providing small interest loans to give women set low-income women on a path towards financial health and eliminate socio-economic challenges that threatened to leave them behind in development.

This year, HFAE kitty supplied 400000 to the Mongoni women and all of it was repaid back fully and 60,302 too at least 5 women in the grassroot to support in running their businesses. This was unlike the 2020 where funds given out as loans has never been fully recovered due to the pandemic. We understand that Covid-19 hardly hit businesses and we continue to stand in solidarity with the loan kit beneficiaries as we encourage them to continue making payments so that other women in need of the loans can have access to them as well.



Gladys (HFAW) handing issuing a group loan to the Mong'oni group

BUILDING THE ECONOMIC CAPACITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

The voice and participation of women living with disabilities is important and a valid measure of the progress of development in a country. In Kenya, the majority of people living with disabilities are women. Though their disabilities vary, the problems they face are almost similar and deeply rooted in lack of financial independence. HFAW, through a grant by the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) implemented Leadership, Business Management, and Financial Literacy training phase II primarily targeting 30 women living with disabilities and advocating for economic justice for WWDs. The activities under this project in 2021 included a 2-day leadership, business management and financial literacy training for 30 women, media outreach in local radio stations, supporting identified businesses owned and run by WWDs, monthly business experts-led discussions on how to thrive in business. The project was a build up of phase 1 where the trained WWDs opened a group business-poshomill. While the business is progressing well, there are challenges. The WWDs are struggling to keep the poshomill running because of hurdles such as high maize prices and high cost of business operation.

HFAW held a two-day leadership, business management and financial literacy training for 30 WWDs based in Kajiado, at the Church of Nazarene for two days. The training was facilitated by 2 business management experts and a consultant on PWD issues. Additionally, HFAW staff members supported the training. The topics discussed during the training include: financial management, marketing, addressing loss in business through processes, retaining customer, not quitting too soon, setting financial goals, keeping financial records, leadership by WWDs for WWDs, reproductive health for PWDs, gender-based ,sexual, and domestic violence. Here is what the trainees had to say about the training:

Testimonials from Trainees



It is my first time to attend such a training, I am so happy for the lessons I have gathered. I am among the people who have experience business collapse. I have restarted severally but it collapses yet again making it hard for me to be economically independent. From this training, I learnt that a business grows. It takes time hence the need to limit pressure to take money out of it for other uses. Also, I have learnt how to use profits to reinvest into the business. I did not know this. I welcome you to come back and train more women living with disabilities.-

Experencer Mutambi



When I attended the last training, I ventured into a new business. I started making soaps and opened a saloon. From this day, my key take away is to manage my business in ways that minimize loopholes for loss of cash. I got the opportunity to share with the ladies the challenges I am facing with the salon business and luckily some of them are in the same business and thriving in it. They have advised me on the ins and outs of managing a business like mine. I am hopeful that I will see positive change-

Akinyi



When I came for the training, I did not have any business. After attending the first training, I went back and started a chicken business. I started with 3 chickens. Now I have ten. Three of them are hatching. Per week I get 2 crates of eggs. I sell it at 450 per crate. From this training, I have learnt to be patient and diversify the business. I plan to grow onions on the nursery bed. I have a small place where I can do this. I am positive that come the next meeting I will have feedback on this-

Zipporah Nyasuguta

The proceedings of the workshop were also shared on HFAW social media platforms to increase awareness on the issues affecting WWDs in Kenya and showcase the skills the women have acquired so far courtesy of the training. Generally, we have reached 3026 people on Facebook and 200 on Twitter. The followers have engaged with post updates on the project

Radio Outreach by WWDs Post-Workshop

Halima Sheriff and Lucia Akoth, visited radio Taifa, a national radio broadcasting in Kiswahili and attached to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. The show dubbed, Sauti ya Kenya (Loosely translated in English means the voice of the Kenyan). The topic discussed was investment among women living with disabilities. The show reached at least 400,000 listeners countrywide and 500 through social media (Facebook and Twitter). Below is an excerpt of some the interview:

How do women living with disabilities get income?

Lucia: Women living with disabilities are talented and can use their skills to generate income. Like me, I am a business woman. She can sell sweets, groundnuts, shop, and groceries. I tailor. However, sometimes sustaining these businesses is challenging because people view you as disabled hence justifying their involvement to the extent of them taking your money.

Halima: We women living with disabilities have had to come out and work in areas such as groceries, tailoring, catering. There are those who have been lucky enough to get formal education. There are those who depend on organizations that are interested in helping set up projects for WWDs. We do this to be independent and not feel like a burden to our loved ones and friends.

Do you think business is a good alternative for a woman living with disability?

Halima: WWDs who have businesses face a lot of challenges. Especially before the business picks. It takes time for people to believe that you can. It is almost as if they feel pity for you. Then when the business picks, that is when they realize that a woman living with disabilities can do anything any other person in business can do.

Lucia: When I started in the tailoring business, people would come to me and ask where the tailor is. They would look so surprised, how? What I would say in such a circumstance, I would ask the client to give me a chance to see. I would take his/her measurements and make the cloth and deliver on time. The customer would be satisfied to the extent of bringing friends. That is how I learnt to run my business. What discourages most is that there are other people who, out of jealousy that you can do in your status, will try to discourage potential customers. However, I do not pay attention to such.

Right now, there are many digital opportunities, how have WWDs taken advantage of search to earn income?

Halima: It is now easier to run a business without fear that someone will refuse to purchase your product because you are living with a disability. Once you have a smartphone and know how to use it, you can get income. I would like to express my gratitude to the Foundation for African women for standing by our side as WWDs when Covid-19 hit. They trained us on financial management and they purchased for us smartphones. Even during a pandemic, we could meet and engage through zoom meetings. Moreover, it has helped us in business. Many of us do businesses. For example, those selling products just take photos to share via social media and WhatsApp to get a client.

Lucia: When we were given smartphones, I benefited a lot. For example, when a customer purchases a cloth and accepts to be photographed, I take the photo and share on social media platforms and this has helped me to get other clients.

What do you think about people using WWDs on the streets to beg for money?

Lucia: It is so painful that some people resort to using PWDs to mint money from well-wishers. It is fraudulent, dehumanizing and violates the rights of PWDs. People who do this need to stop.

The recurring issue during the show was how WWDs can economically progress yet most of them do not receive enough support from family and friends. This is because they are hidden from the public due to fear of stigmatization and lack of enough awareness of the rights and opportunities for Women living with disabilities.



Radio Host, Major interviewing Lucia and Halima

Expert-led Business Mentorship

To maintain the momentum of the training and ensure that learning and practicing is still going on, the WWDs had monthly meetings where a business management expert, David Mureithi, would guide them on business management and other emerging issues in the market. This year we held at least 4 monthly meetings attended by an average of 25 of the trained WWDs.



Group photo of WWDs and trainer David: January monthly meeting



Eda from HFAW visiting Lucia who has a tailorshop

Supporting WWDs-owned Businesses

While HFAW's goal was to train on the identified areas, it is important that we walk the journey of starting and managing businesses. Thus, with support from the HFAW Hopekit, we supported 5 women with small interest loans to run their businesses. In total, HFAW gave out Kshs. 50,000. In February 2022, a month after issuing the loans, HFAW visited the beneficiaries to see how they were progressing with their respective projects.



Kwamboka at her shop for selling water, clothes, and household items



HFAW members and Salome (center) who sells affordable cooking oil, gas and other household goods

SUPPORTING RESILIENCE AMONG THE ELDERLY TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The emergence of Covid-19 in Kenya and other parts of the world exposed deeper vulnerabilities of people already vulnerable. The elderly in Kenya are faced with a myriad of socio-economic challenges such as access to quality healthcare, information, sanitation services, and being at risk of contracting Covid-19. With support from the International Women Leaders for the World, HFAW implemented the Covid-19 relief for the elderly project to promote resilience to stop the spread of Covid-19 among the elderly who are survivors of FGM in Nyamira County. Below is a breakdown of the impact of the project.

We trained 20 community health volunteers on covid-19 preventative and safety measures as well as how they will continue to be advocates for the elderly and WWDs on covid-19 as well FGM, early pregnancies, and the newly discovered jigger issues. We worked together with the 20 volunteers to reach three villages in Gachuba to sensitize the community on covid-19 preventative and safety measures as well as raise awareness of FGM, early pregnancies, and gender-based violence. During these events, we reached a total population of 270. We reached 400,000 people per session (cumulatively 2 million) through the traditional radio, Egesa FM where we aired messages about the plight of the elderly and people living with disabilities and the effect of the pandemic on them while urging the community to be sensitive to their plight. The health unity found an opportunity to add their support to our voice. Through social media specifically Facebook and Twitter we reached 3500 people with the same messaging. To large extent, we exceeded our expectations in achieving our objectives. As we strived to reach the above outcomes we specifically used funds for the following specific activity-related items: Cash gifts to the elderly and WWDs including food, fruits, and blankets, purchasing PPEs such as face masks, sanitizers, and soap, and producing and distributing sensitization posters to the community in areas where we worked, that is, End Covid-19, anti-FGM and Children's Rights Posters.

Testimonial

"I am grateful that I have attended this training today. I have learnt on matters ending FGM, and supporting to spread the message on the outbreak, nature, and health effects of Covid-19. Since the disease emerged, we feel that there is information that we at the grassroot have been missing on key information. That is why I really loved the session where we got updates on the nature, number of cases, recoveries, and deaths. It was informative and will help in ensuring I provide accurate information",- Said **Linet, Trained CHV from Gachuba.**



Training of CHVs by Dr. Grace and Joyce (HFAW)



Demonstration on sanitiser by Dr. Nyamongo



Elderly woman receiving Covid-19 supplies

GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF FGM

Funded by the Associated Country Women of the World, this particular project aims to implement an anti-female genital mutilation (FGM) strategy amongst the Abagusii people of Nyamira County in Kenya. Although significant anti-FGM work has been done in this region, the practice continues to persist, and its prevalence has considerably increased in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the gender equality through the prevention and eradication of FGM project include to: ensure that student-age youth know how to report, FGM/GBV, how to resist violence, and how to involve teachers in the community in anti-FGM activity, support adult women and girls in the community with resources and training about the health effects of FGM, root causes of FGM and its effect on the whole community and encourage the development of self-advocacy for women, educate and create a culture of advocacy among men living with survivors of FGM and build a larger movement to stop FGM and GBV by raising awareness, getting the conversation started, and out to as many ears and eyes as possible.

This year, under this project, we conducted media outreach at Minto FM reaching at least 400,000 spread across Kenya and training for 45 young anti-FGM ambassadors. The schools were: Nyamusi primary, Kebuko primary, and Nyariacho primary school. In two the schools, 15 pupils were chosen. Among these, 8 were girls, and 7 were boys. The other school 16 students were chosen, where we had 9 girls and 7 boys. The 46 students were trained to enlighten them on the key issues relating to FGM on young girls. Three HFAW members were in attendance during the training, three health promoters and a public officer, Dr. Geoffrey Nyamongo. Below area sample of reactions during the training of anti-FGM ambassadors.

"In my home place I have seen this practice, and I was not happy about it. I saw the girls bleeding and the women were not taking care of them as the underwent that harrowing experience, they were dancing and dancing, especially during this corona period it was rampant here."-**Sylvia, Kebuko Primary**



Group photo at Nyamusi Primary



Demonstration of action plans at Kebuko Primary



Dr. Grace being hosted at Minto FM by Makori

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE STUDENTS WITH HYGIENE SUPPLIES

If there is anything that Covid19 has laid bare the inequalities in access to essential hygiene supplies for girls especially in Nyamira. Hope Foundation For African Women supported school-going girls with hygiene supplies such as soap and sanitary towels, and some money. This support benefited 27 girls-22 from Esani Secondary, 3 from Esani primary, 1 from Nyamakoroto primary school and 1 from Eronge secondary school. The students benefited from hygiene supplies: Sanitary towels, soap, and panties. One girl's mother had to come for her supplies because she had given birth two weeks before the activity hence could not be present during the event. The girls were very grateful for the supplies and expressed how the supplies will help them to maintain hygiene. Also, one girl, Hilda, benefited from being taken to the hospital for screening after expressing feeling pain around her reproductive area. She was taken to a screening at Oasis Health Center accompanied by Gladys from HFAW, School Matron, and public health officer. She was asked to come again where she was given medication. Thankfully, she received her diagnosis and has been put on medication to treat the condition.

"My name is Damaris. I am so grateful for HFAW for helping us. This is the second time I am meeting the organization and I am so happy that this time, they came with very important hygiene supplies.

May God continue blessing the organization."-**Damaris, a student at Esani who benefited from the supplies.**



Some student beneficiaries from Esani Secondary with their teachers

LIFESKILLS EDUCATION TO END TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN NYAMIRA

Life skills Education (LSE), can influence youth behaviors in a way that improves sexual reproductive health outcomes. With this project, we targeted teaching 400 young girls life skills education not forgetting the young boys, the parents, the community and the local authority who will be a major role player in prevention of teenage pregnancies. Long term mentoring will ensure the girls increase self awareness and self esteem and also their increase their academic performance in class. This year, conducted life skills education in 12 schools spread across Nyamira County. As a result we impacted at least 1200 vulnerable girls with knowledge and life skills to end FGM. Overall, we reached more than 2500 students.

"Personally, I knew if I can't undergo the process, I can't fit in the society but as from today I have realized those are traditions our parents use to entice us to undergo the process."-**Belinda, from Riosiago secondary**



Some student beneficiaries from Riosiago secondary school

Sadly, during this project, we established that many students are infested by jiggers. While we made some efforts through helping students maintain cleanliness, purchasing uniforms, and shoes, more interventions are needed to sustainably address the problem on a long-term basis.



Gladys washing students affected by jiggers

END FGM IN SCHOOLS

The purpose of this project is to empower girls in Kenya to refuse to be subjected to the practice of FGM. FGM is often performed without anesthesia or sufficient antiseptic conditions, with girls as young as five years old. An estimated 150 million women have undergone FGM - with 2 to 3 million new victims annually. With this project, HFAW hopes to bring qualified personnel to schools to educate girls and their parents about FGM. In the year ended, we conducted more than 12 schools outreach focusing on advocating for the end of FGM. In this, we have reached at least 2400 students and 50 teachers. Also, in some instances, we took it a notch higher to engage youths as well since they are the generation that we commonly refer to as 'FGM ends with their generation'. So far, we have reached more than 200 youths.



Gladys (HFAW) facilitating an outreach at Mong'oni Secondary School



Dr. Nyamongo during a school outreach at St. Lukes Nyasumi

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTERS

The goal of this project is to tackle poverty, lack reproductive healthcare services, domestic violence, HIV/AIDs through training motivated community health and human rights promoters to replicate the HFAW team mentoring the process with an outreach to over 1600 additional people. The targeted long impact is for the group to be the catalyst for elimination of gender disparities and a radical paradigm shift in women's issues throughout the country. This year, we largely used radio outreach and podcasts activities to implement the activities. Cumulatively, the show reached at least 80,000 listeners. Additionally, posts on the show were shared on social media platforms and podcasts were created.



Dr. Grace being hosted by Nancy at Minto FM



One of the radio show posters

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

GlobalGiving

In partnership with GlobalGiving, HFAW produced a short film documentary detailing HFAW's founder journey to being a changemaker and advocate to end female genital mutilation in Kenya, where she endured the life-threatening practice as a girl. HFAW volunteers, Community and Health Human Right Promoters, and 20 students Dr. Grace mentor to be the future advocates of ending GBV forms such as FGM participated in the documentary.

Also, HFAW participated in a fireside chat on gender equality organized by Global Giving as part of the build up activities marking the organization's 20th impact on communities across the world. The chat was moderated by Meggie Palmer, founder of PepTalkHer, a consulting company focussed on ending the gender pay gap. Also, she is a former foreign correspondent for BBC World and Dateline. Other participants in the talk included Kristina Joss, Vice President of Growth at GlobalGiving, responsible for growing annual revenue through corporate, institutional, and individual donor partnerships in service of GlobalGiving's mission to accelerate community-led change. During the fireside chat, Dr. Grace emphasized on the works of the organization in eliminating gender-disparities in Kenya through advocating for the end of FGM, economic empowerments, and supporting reproductive health. More than 1,000 GlobalGiving supporters and changemakers registered to attend GlobalGiving 20th anniversary virtual celebration.



Dr. Grace during the shooting of the documentary



HFAW CHVs during the shooting of the documentary



HFAW staff (yellow) and KU students (orange), group selfie

FGM TV Trailer Launch-in Partnership with I-Create Media

On 6th February, to mark the internal day of zero tolerance for FGM, HFAW participated in the launch CUTS movie trailer in partnership with I-Create Media. I-Create develops content for TV and film. The organization developed a fictional short FGM TV trailer titled Cuts, with the view to eventually creating a full TV series on the topic. Cuts is based on a stage play which toured a few theatres in London, was performed live at Channel 4 Studios in the U.K, and won the British Urban Film Festival Competition for script in 2013. HFAW participated in the global virtual launch of the Cuts trailer on 6th February 2022 on the International FGM Zero Tolerance Day, to raise awareness and funding for the project. The launch included a general viewing of the short film and a zoom meeting.



TV Trailer Launch poster (Photo courtesy)

HFAW Featured on Thrive Newsletter

In November 2021, HFAW was featured in the Thrive CIC November Newsletter. Thrive offers trusted digital and live training modules in partnership with frontline charities worldwide. In the video feature, HFAW Founder and CEO, Dr. Grace Mose, spoke on our work in addressing #genderbasedviolence and how different groups could contribute in creating a safer and healthier world for women and girls in Kenya. The feature followed a training for staff of the Standard Chartered Bank on how to identify and address abuse among female clients. At least 50 staff members were impacted with skills in identifying and solving abuse. The training provided a platform for the organization to set up mechanisms for ending GBV in the business world.

16 Days of Activism Against GBV

Dr. Grace Mose Okong'o led Kenyatta University (KU) students and some faculty members in a walk to create awareness on the rampant cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence during the launch of 16 Days Of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Campus Me Too Edition under the theme, 'Orange the World'. More than 50. The weeklong campaign reached over 400 people on social media.



Participants holding placards calling for the end of GBV



Dr. Grace leading the students in a walk at KU

International Women's Day 2022

HFAW, through Dr. Grace Mose, marked the International Women's Day, 2022 through leading Kenyatta University students in a walk to create awareness on the issues Sexual and Gender-based violence during the international women's day. For a better tomorrow of the girl child. The theme for this year's event was 'Break the Bias'.



Students Preparing to start the walk to mark IWD2022

Nomination for DIAR Awards, 4th Edition

We are happy to have been nominated for the 4th Edition of DIAR Awards in the category Diversity and Inclusion Award for Best NGO on Gender Equality. This category celebrates a Non-Governmental organization that runs projects or promotes programs that contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment. Voting began on 1st Feb and closed on 6th Feb, 2022. This was an achievement to HFAW because it positively implied on the impact of the organization in the community.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

HFAW is committed to building the capacity of staff to apply skills and talents in creating a healthier and safer world for women and girls in Kenya. We are grateful that we have partnered with organizations whose vision for human resources aligns with ours. This year, through the partnership with African Women Development Fund, HFAW attended the Learners Needs Analysis, ICT Training, Project Design, and Proposal Development workshops (virtual). Additionally, Lancer Wao, HFAW Communications officer presented during a workshop on making the online space safe for women and girls. The trainings have been instrumental in improving how HFAW designs and implements projects, leverages on grassroots partnerships to create impact, and mentor future leaders.

PARTNERS

- **Associated Country Women of the World**
- **International Women Leaders for the World Fund**
- **African Women Development Fund**
- **Global Giving**
- **EPES Foundation**
- **Individual Partners: Lisa Fontes, Carol Larkin, Melanie Nelson, Elizabeth Makous**



Group photo at Kebuko Primary School during outreach



Hope Foundation For African Women

Eliminating Gender Disparities to Create Strong Communities