



VILLAGE IMPACT

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



A JOURNEY OF HOPE

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How 2021 Has Given Us Hope

2021 has been a year that reminded us, again and again, that hope has the power to transform amid weariness.

We've found hope in the stories of our supporters, who have been overcoming their own challenges while still stepping up for children and communities in need.

We've found hope in the response of parents, teachers, administrators and our partners, who have persevered, have given thanks and encouraged each other.

We've found hope in children who have returned to school after the closures caused by COVID and who are working hard every day to get back on track and complete their education.

Working with communities recovering from conflict is often challenging. The COVID-19 pandemic has added additional hurdles for the children and families living in our project areas for the second year in a row.



Despite these obstacles, children attending Village Impact partner schools persevered and continued working toward their goals.

And while there is still much work to be done, thanks to people like you, thousands of students received the support they needed to learn, grow and thrive. Thank you.

Join us in looking back at some highlights of our work together from the past year—and in looking forward to a new year filled with hope, education and success for all.

EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTIONS

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With your help, in February and August of 2021, Village Impact organized the distribution of Emergency Hygiene Kits and three-litre containers of all-purpose liquid soap to each of the 4300 students student in our 14 partner schools.

Since then, we have been visiting communities to assess the impact these items have on students' lives.



“ I would be ungrateful if I didn't thank you for the gifts that we have been receiving from you. Some of us could not afford even soap or toothbrushes, but thanks to you, we are able to enjoy some of these things. May you never lack.” — Festus, High School student



Children Taking Charge of Their Hygiene

We found that students are very proud of their items like soap, new undergarments, and masks. Parents told us how well their children take care of the resources, even without waiting for their parents' direction.

Soap Helps Families Maintain High Standards of Hygiene

In 2020, Village Impact distributed a supply of liquid soap to all students' families through the parents. Our 2021, distribution was delivered to the children at their schools.

In each of the distributions, every child received a 3-month supply of liquid to take home to their families. Each child also got some essential items to improve their hygiene. This has fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment in the children and encouraged them to maintain a high level of hygiene in the family.

Usually, only older kids have personal hygiene items because they have earned some monies in their free time and purchase these items independent of the family. Now even younger kids have this privilege, and thus, they have reported feeling empowered to maintain a high level of cleanliness in their lives.

“ Thanks to all those who made this possible; everyone in our village is grateful!”—Mary, Secondary School student

Miriam aged 7 from Lemolo showing us how she likes to brush her teeth.



Special Focus on Girls

One million girls in Kenya miss school each month because they can't afford sanitary pads. And, according to Kenya's Ministry of Education research, girls lose on average four school days every month, which translates to two weeks of learning each term. Over four years of high school, they lose on average 165 learning days.

Many people live on less than \$1 a day in the areas where we work. When a packet of sanitary pads costs \$1, and the average family has to manage on less than that per day, poverty means access to sanitary products is near-impossible for most girls.

We provided menstruating-aged girls with a 6-month supply of sanitary pads, and have resourced the schools to distribute pads as needed.

We were humbled when one mother shared that her daughter no longer has to choose between maintaining her cleanliness and dignity or forfeiting her education.

Girls like Zawadi* no longer have to choose between dignity and their education. *Name changed for privacy



SAFE WATER

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Water and sanitation are at the core of sustainable development, and safe drinking water is a pillar of human health and well-being. With children spending 80% of their active time in school, the interdependence of water and education can not be underestimated.

While Kenya benefits from regular rainfall throughout the year, shortages exist, and most schools in Nakuru County do not have a steady or clean water supply. This means the school must buy water locally, which is often an expensive option, or dispatch students with five-litre jerricans to fetch water to clean classrooms and meet other needs requiring fresh water at school.

As a result, children miss lessons, and the chance of illness or injury is heightened as water often comes from non-potable ponds, springs and rivers some distance from the school.

Time spent going back and forth to collect water could otherwise be used to study and other activities that benefit the children's growth and development.

Safe Water at School Transforms Student's Lives

Under these circumstances, alternative water sources must be explored to complement the available water sources. One promising alternative source of water is rainwater harvesting. In most cases, rainwater is collected off a school's roof, enters a custom guttering system (that filters out debris) and leads to a storage tank. Tanks can store water for months, and water can be easily treated in the tank to make it safe to drink and accessible through taps. With your help, we improved water systems at seven schools with the installation of 10,000-litre water tanks, gutters and piping systems as appropriate to the school's needs.

As a result of scaling up water resources at schools, we've seen absenteeism rates reduce, improvements in academic performance, improved conditions for women and girls, significant reductions in waterborne illness or injury related to water collection, and children and staff are better able to follow COVID-19 handwashing protocols, which can help to flatten the curve in the transmission rates of the virus.



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Thanks a lot, Village Impact donors for your support of the water tank initiative. It rained last night and we were able to capture, treat and store it in our new tanks. This helps the school get water without extra cost.

San Marco Primary School

PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE



In April 2021, sixteen Principals from Village Impact -partner schools were able to attend an annual meeting, focusing conversation on "Wins, Challenges and Growth Areas You Faced in 2021." This was an important and much appreciated time to discuss successes, challenges, concerns, ideas and, perhaps most importantly, build relationships with colleagues working towards a common goal.

GRADE 8 TRIP



With your help, hundreds of Grade 8 students from all 14 Village Impact schools were able to travel to a local zoo, and spend the day learning about animals, enjoying amusement park rides, and spending time together in an environment outside of their usual routines.

When students see beyond their day-to-day environment and are exposed to the world of possibilities that await them, everything can change

BUILDING THE FUTURE

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Since 2009, the heart of Village Impact has been our program of school building for conflict and poverty-affected communities. Many of the existing buildings used for classrooms are in such a poor state of repair that they are not only uninhabitable in the rainy season but also dangerously close to collapse.



2021 saw the completion of a new high school in the San Marco community, which welcomed 70 students in its first enrollment.

We also finished the construction of a new and modern Kindergarten at Ndatho Primary school where up to 90 of the littlest students, aged 4 to 5 years, now have a comfortable learning space.



Ndatho also received a new library, which is fully stocked with relevant books, and a computer lab that enables children to develop problem-solving skills, and opens a student's eyes to the digital world. Teachers report that because of the library, the children's reading and comprehension, English and composition skills have greatly improved.

Girls School Construction

In response to a request from local government and community leaders, with your help this year we broke ground on the construction of a new 12-classroom, all-girls high school.

The project is in Mai Mahui, a community that has a primary school with 3,200 students. Drop-out rates are currently high as there is no high school within the community. This affects all children, but girls in particular face increased risk of violence and exploitation as they walk long distances alone to schools outside their communities.

Land was donated by the community for the project and the project kicked off with a borehole well being drilled. Although now completed, there had been a delay in installing the water pump on the new well because the water was an incredible 62 degrees Celsius! The well will provide a clean water source for both the primary and secondary schools, as well as the surrounding community.



A Village Impact Community Development worker was activated and met with stakeholders, including school administration, elders, Village Chiefs and community members. These meetings are part of a needs assessment process to determine the scope of psychosocial and other supports needed for students and their families and how these needs may be best supported by programming at the new school.

Because we know that the sustainability of projects is community participation at all stages of project development and in the life cycle of the school, a community meeting was also held with Village Impact staff, school administration and local government. Over 1,000 parents and caregivers, primarily women attended the meeting.

Construction of the two-story school is well underway.

This includes twelve classrooms, two science labs, library and admin buildings. We anticipate being able to open a block of classrooms in the school so that we welcome students in the first term of the Kenyan school year, beginning in April of 2022.



THANK YOU!

On behalf of our students, their families and communities with whom together we partner, please accept our sincerest thanks for all that you made possible in 2021. It is because of you that we were able to accomplish so much. Asante Sana.





VILLAGE IMPACT

Our Purpose is Our Passion

Village Impact provides access to community-led education, leadership, and economic opportunities for thousands of children and youth in rural Kenya. Along with our local partners and supporters, we're passionately committed to empowering kids to dream big and to gain the skills and know-how they need to lead transformed lives free from poverty—for the long term.

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