

WORLD CONNECT

POWER INSIDE WOMEN



IMPACT REPORT 2024

OUR PURPOSE

**2,055
INVESTMENTS**

**94%
SUCCESS**

**\$8.4M
INVESTED**

**1,464
WOMEN
LEADERS**

**3.6M+
IMPACTED**

**\$13M
COMMUNITY
CO-INVESTMENT**

World Connect activates power inside communities by grantmaking with them to advance progress on their terms. The result of this co-investment model is a more effective, cost efficient, high impact, and sustainable local development paradigm that can address urgent inequities worldwide.

World Connect has improved health, education, the environment, and economic opportunity for more than 3.6 million people across 42 countries with 2,055 co-investments to date. For every dollar that World Connect invests, communities are leveraging an additional \$1.55 in co-investment. 94% of our partner communities achieve their development objectives and 80% of communities sustain the impact of our co-investments five years post award.

To multiply and sustain local grantmaking, World Connect is supporting the growth

of locally-led grantmaking via Locally-Led Development Hubs in Malawi, Rwanda, New York City, Guatemala, Nigeria, and Ecuador.

World Connect activates agency by building community, trust, and fueling action with investment. We meet new people from all over the world every day with openness. We listen to their ideas with curiosity and interest. We trust and invest quickly to activate their vision for addressing urgent priorities in their community.

World Connect envisions a future in which communities have the necessary power and resources to activate local development on their own terms, and with its funding, aims to impact 5 million people with improved health, education and economic opportunity by 2030.

OUR LEADERSHIP



Pamela Nathenson, left, with Senior Group Chief Headwoman Lambulira in Malawi, celebrating the construction of the Nsala Library, which was supported with \$9,184 from World Connect and \$2,993 from the community. Photo by Natacha Weiss.

Dear Friends,

2025 will mark the 20th anniversary of World Connect’s founding. We didn’t look the same two decades ago as we do now, but we were founded on the same premise that communities have the power inside to drive progress. We began by ensuring a healthy start in life for mothers and babies and in this impact report, we feature two women—Abosede Lewu and Myla Flores—who continue that legacy by working to ensure safe births and healthy lives for women from Nigeria to New York City.

Since we were founded, we have mobilized \$21.4M in community development investment. \$8.4M has come from the grants we award, \$3.5M has been matched by the communities we partner with, and an additional \$9.5M has been raised through our joint efforts with those communities to leverage significant additional resources from government, foundations, and the private sector. Our approach to development is simple and straightforward yet also represents a paradigm shift. Communities know best what they need and must design and lead their own development initiatives. By co-investing with communities, sustainability is locally owned and not dependent on outsiders. Shifting power and decision making to communities breaks with historic development models that created dependency.

Talented and strong women have led the majority of projects we invest in. We have backed 1,464 women leaders to date. In our report we showcase just a handful of the remarkable women leaders we have the privilege of supporting across the globe. There is immense power inside women and we intend to activate more of it with your support. This year we are proud to have launched our newest Locally-Led Development Hub in Guatemala, which will be led by an extraordinary woman, Lidia Oxí, who has spent her career advocating for indigenous women and girls in Guatemala.

Through your generous support you have activated transformational power inside communities and based on our success, we are more energized than ever to invest in women across the globe who drive change. Thank you for your generosity and for enabling a vision where communities can utilize the power they have to activate development from within.

Gratefully,

George Biddle
Chairman

Pamela Nathenson
Executive Director



THE VICE MAYOR

“ONCE MY FIRST GRANT WAS APPROVED BY WORLD CONNECT, I BEGAN TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND SO DID MY COMMUNITY.”

—MARISOL PEÑALOZA

MARISOL PEÑALOZA, Ecuador

Marisol Peñaloza, the founder of Kallpa Warmi, a women’s cooperative in Ecuador that means “power of women” in Kichwa, lives in Sayausí, a rural community near Cuenca. Marisol received a first grant of \$500 from World Connect to organize the women of Kallpa Warmi into a recycled arts cooperative and has received subsequent grants as well as other funding raised by Kallpa Warmi to launch culinary and tourism businesses, increasing income for women and reducing gender-based violence. Marisol, a recipient of the Founder’s Prize,* is now the Vice-Mayor of Cuenca, Ecuador’s third largest city, and is working with World Connect to establish community banks in every part of the city to promote more local investment in local development.

*The Founder’s Prize is awarded annually to a visionary project leader who has shown extraordinary dedication to the progress of their community.

THE RECYCLERS



“WHEN YOU ARE BELIEVED IN WITH INVESTMENT, THAT IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN BEING TOLD YOU CAN DO ANYTHING. WITH FUNDING, YOU CAN.”

—RITA IDEHAI

RITA IDEHAI, Nigeria

Trained as a geoscientist, Rita Idehai shifted her focus from mineral extraction to recycling because she felt compelled to have a more positive impact on communities in Nigeria. She founded EcoBarter in 2018 to collect recyclables and has received three grants from World Connect, in addition to support from the Elumelu Foundation, Coca-Cola, LeapAfrica, the British High Commission, GIZ, and the African Development Bank. Rita, another winner of World Connect’s Founder’s Prize, is the President of the Recyclers Association in Nigeria, representing 250 recycling businesses across the country. EcoBarter now has 22 full-time and 15 part-time staff, annual revenues of roughly \$10,000 per month, and has rolled out Nigeria’s first reverse recycling vending machine to incentivize bottle collection across the country—there will soon be 26 recycling machines countrywide.



“I NEVER IMAGINED I COULD BE A LEADER. WHEN NYC CONNECT SHOWED THAT THEY BELIEVED IN ME WITH AN INVESTMENT, I KNEW I WAS SETTING OUT ON A NEW JOURNEY.”

—JOSEFA MARÍN

JOSEFA MARÍN, New York City

Josefa Marín has been a canner in New York City for over 15 years, collecting bottles and cans to support herself and her family. As the founder and President of the Alliance of Independent Recyclers and a vital member of the Sure We Can community, Josefa has always believed in the power of recyclers to uplift each other and create lasting change. With support from NYC Connect, Josefa is turning a long-standing dream into reality: opening a Sure We Can redemption site in East New York, Brooklyn. Scheduled to open in March 2025, this new site will become a space for mutual aid and holistic community support, especially for the newest New Yorkers—recent immigrants seeking opportunities to work, connect, and thrive.

THE DESIGNERS



Photo by Phoenix Johnson

“THERE ARE MANY ORGANIZATIONS HELPING THOSE OF US WITH BIG DREAMS. WORLD CONNECT IS AMONG THE VERY BEST. THEY TREAT OUR IDEAS, OUR DREAMS, AND US, WITH DIGNITY. FUNDING THAT IS INVESTED WITH DIGNITY IS POWERFUL.”

—DELPHINE UWAMAHORO

DELPHINE UWAMAHORO, Rwanda

Delphine Uwamahoro was inspired by her mother who was a nurse, and encouraged her daughter to develop skills that would allow her to have a meaningful impact on her community. Delphine realized that she could impact more women with job skills and training than in her career as a radiologist, so she founded Our Sisters Opportunity (OSO) in 2019 to provide women and girls with job skills and training, tools, and resources to hold sustainable jobs. Delphine received two grants from World Connect, in addition to funding from Segal Family Foundation, and others. OSO has graduated 284 students, 91% of whom started their own businesses, and the rest remain employed. Each graduate employs at least 3 other vulnerable girls in their start-ups and they all improve the livelihoods of more than 2,000 family members. Delphine is now building the first ever ethical fashion school in East Africa.

“IN THE BEGINNING, ALL WE HAVE ARE THE DREAMS INSIDE OUR HEADS. BUT WHEN A CHAMPION LIKE WORLD CONNECT COMES ALONG NOT ONLY TO FUND YOUR DREAM, BUT TO ADVOCATE FOR YOU AND YOUR DREAM, YOU BEGIN TO BELIEVE THAT THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BECOME POSSIBLE.”

—OMOBOLANLE ADEDEJI



OMOBOLANLE ADEDEJI, Nigeria

Omobolanle Adedeji realized at a young age that her interest in fashion design could offer economic security in Nigeria so she launched Fash4Dev, a social enterprise that blended impact for women in her community while earning revenue from fashion design and training. With support from World Connect, she launched Whoopy Yun College, where she has trained hundreds of women and girls who now run their own fashion businesses and where Omobolanle also provides training in photography, graphic design and home furnishing design. In 2020 Omobolanle received the award for Fashion School of the Year from “The Prestige Fashion Award” in Nigeria. In 2022 she was selected by the US consulate in Lagos for a fellowship at the Academy for Women Entrepreneurship. In 2024, she received the “Outstanding Leadership Award” from African Fashion and Development Center. Omobolanle currently serves as the Oyo State coordinator for the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs Alumnae Association. Once laughed at for her dreams, Omobolanle now has a waiting list of attendees for her trainings, including paying clients who subsidize the cost of low-income clients. Omobolanle sees in fashion the opportunity to lift women out of poverty and aims to train 1,000 women in fashion design by 2030 and establish a fashion, art and technology university in Nigeria.

THE LIBRARIAN

“THE TRUST AFFORDED TO ME BY MUDZI CONNECT WAS LIFE CHANGING. BELIEVING IN THOSE WHO HAVEN’T BEEN BELIEVED IN BEFORE— THAT IS WORLD CONNECT’S SUPERPOWER.”

—PATIENCE KHEMBO



PATIENCE KHEMBO, Malawi

Patience Khembo founded Ladder to Learning to advance education for children in Malawi, where more than 30% of the country is illiterate. Over the past ten years Patience has led the establishment of four libraries/literacy hubs and made 12,000+ books available to more than 45,000 children across Malawi. Mudzi Connect has awarded three grants to Patience as she builds resource centers, launches literacy programs, and gets books and computers into the hands of children. Patience envisions reaching over 100,000 students by 2027 through the Ladder to Learning Literacy Centre in Lumbadzi, Lilongwe.

THE ADVOCATE

“NYC CONNECT DIDN’T JUST PROVIDE A GRANT, THEY EXTENDED A HELPING HAND WHENEVER I NEEDED IT. THIS UNWAVERING SUPPORT FUELS MY DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED.”

—ARELIS FIGUEROA



Photo by Pamela Nathenson

ARELIS FIGUEROA, New York City

Arelis Figueroa is the co-founder and lead Pastor of La Iglesia del Pueblo in New York City, founded in 2020 with the support of the Kairos Center for Religious Rights and Social Justice. In 2022, La Iglesia started supporting newly arrived immigrants in NYC, and thanks to the pivotal support of \$25,000 from NYC Connect, they launched the program Abriendo Puertas, creating a community of new immigrant entrepreneurs who share information, training, and resources to start cooperative businesses.

THE LIFE SAVERS



“WORLD CONNECT WAS FIRST—A FIRST BELIEVER IN ME, A FIRST INVESTOR IN ME, A FIRST CHAMPION OF ME. IT IS HARD TO EXPLAIN WHAT POWER THAT CONFIDENCE AND INVESTMENT CAN DO. IF ALL OF US WITH THE VISION TO DRIVE CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITIES COULD HAVE WORLD CONNECT BEHIND US, WE COULD SEE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE FOR OUR WORLD TO THRIVE.”

—ABOSEDE LEWU

ABOSEDE LEWU, Nigeria

Witnessing her mother nearly die while giving birth catapulted Aboosed Lewu, an obstetrician/gynecologist and public health expert, into a career focusing on saving the lives of girls and women in Nigeria’s most challenging and toughest circumstances. With degrees from Harvard, University of Lagos, and University of Maiduguri, Aboosed is a nonstop innovator, opening a women’s clinic and launching apps to make health information and healthcare more accessible. She also organizes free screenings to diagnose diseases early and trainings to educate and empower traditional birth attendants, bridging cultural wisdom and modern solutions to transform maternal healthcare in Nigeria.

“NEW YORK’S MATERNAL MORBIDITY AND CESAREAN RATES ARE UNACCEPTABLE. THANKS TO NYC CONNECT’S SUPPORT, MY ABILITY TO EMPOWER GROWING FAMILIES WITH MORE OPTIONS WAS IGNITED, SO I CONTINUE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO IMPROVED PRENATAL CARE, BIRTH OUTCOMES, AND FAMILY EXPERIENCES.”

—MYLA FLORES



MYLA FLORES, New York City

Myla Flores is dedicated to transforming maternal care in New York. With NYC Connect’s support, she has broadened language access to comprehensive pre- and postnatal education and programs, reaching underserved populations. Myla can also be found driving the “Womb Bus,” delivering vital social support and resources to New Yorkers. Leading a passionate team, this year she proudly launched a brick and mortar clinic, Maryam Reproductive Health + Wellness, offering collaborative, respectful community perinatal care. This milestone paves the way for her ultimate vision: establishing a birth center to revolutionize healthcare and well-being for all birthing individuals and future generations.

THE TECH ENTREPRENEUR



“THE IDEAS TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT IN MALAWI ARE HERE. MUDZI CONNECT IS A LOCALLY-LED ORGANIZATION ACTIVATING THE TALENT AND VISION INSIDE THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR INVESTMENTS AND TOGETHER, WE—THE INNOVATORS AND THE FUNDERS OF MALAWI—WILL TAKE THE LEAD ON DEVELOPMENT.”

—WANGIWE KAMBUZI

WANGIWE KAMBUZI, Malawi

Wangiwe Kambuzi is a leader in driving innovation inside Malawi. In a community where nine out of ten girls are forced into early marriage, Wangiwe founded the Mzuzu E-Hub, recently rebranded as Emerge Livelihoods, which is supporting the incubation of leaders and ideas that can transform Malawi from the inside. With support over the years from Mudzi Connect, Wangiwe has led a virtuous cycle of development including the construction of a secondary school, new teacher’s houses, a library and resource center, and a health clinic at Chipunga, Nkhata-Bay.

THE NOURISHER

“I HAVE BEEN SO HAPPY TO PARTNER WITH NYC CONNECT TO INCREASE MY CAPACITY TO MEET THE HEALTHY FOOD NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN HARLEM AND THE BRONX. THESE FOOD MARKETS ARE A LABOR OF LOVE AND A SILENT PROTEST FOR CHANGE.”

—JUDI DESIRE



Photo by Nina Watkins

JUDI DESIRE, New York City

When Judith “Judi” Desire found herself caring for her mother with Alzheimer’s and Dementia between Jamaica, Queens, and Washington Heights, Manhattan, research showed that to slow down the progression of Alzheimer’s, she needed to provide her mother with a healthy eating diet, but she was limited in accessing nutritious food options. From the culture of Haitian caregiving, where, Judi notes, there is no word for “nursing home” in Haitian Creole, she nursed her mother and found her purpose. Judi founded the Uptown & Boogie Healthy Project Inc. and passionately advocates for sustainable living in Harlem and The Bronx. She collects and composts food scraps to transform the food waste to assist with growing vegetables, runs farmer’s markets and a farm stand to link local producers with urban consumers, and is a one-woman dynamo increasing access to fresh produce daily.

THE BEEKEEPERS

“AT MUDZI CONNECT, WE ARE INSPIRED EACH DAY BY THE LOCAL LEADERS WHO BRING THE IDEAS, COMMITMENT, AND TALENT TO DRIVE PROGRESS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE ARE HONORED TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT.”

**—RUTH CHAMANGWANA
PROGRAM MANAGER
MUDZI CONNECT**



MANES JERE, Malawi

Manes Jere leads the Tiyanjane honey cooperative in Malawi, which has doubled its volume of bees over the last two years and increased honey production 8% and sales 25%. Increased sales are enabling the group to support vulnerable members of the community. The cooperative pays school fees for secondary students, assists the elderly by providing plastic sheeting to repair leaking roofs, covers the wages of a security guard for their processing facility, and supports a savings account that gives members an annual distribution in December. Manes was able to buy two goats, which have since multiplied to six, as well as two pigs, and with her earnings she is also able to cover her daughter’s school fees.

“WORLD CONNECT RWANDA IS PROUD TO INVEST IN THE TALENT AND RESILIENCE OF WOMEN IN RWANDA, WHO HAVE THE POWER TO TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES AND COMMUNITIES WITH INVESTMENT.”

**—RHODA KANYESIGYE
DIRECTOR, WORLD
CONNECT RWANDA**



IMMACULEE NYIRAMPORE, Rwanda

Immaculee Nyirampore leads the Mpore Dukundinzuki beekeeping cooperative in Rwanda, a group of women genocide survivors who continue to be impacted by violence in the form of domestic violence. Beekeeping was selected as an enterprise because it requires little land, which the women do not have, and requires less physical exertion, because these women have lost physical strength over time. The group has acquired a honey production facility where they produce honey for sale as well as body lotion. The group has increased revenues by 30%, enabling the women to improve nutrition, housing, cover school and health fees, and live safer and more hopeful lives.

THE SOAP MAKERS



“WOMEN ARE SO POWERFUL. THEY CAN DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING. THE BEST THING THAT SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HELP CAN DO IS TO INVEST IN THE IDEAS AND VISION OF WOMEN - THEY WILL MAKE SOCIETIES HEALTHIER, SMARTER, AND MORE PRODUCTIVE.”

—TONY JOY

TONY JOY, Nigeria

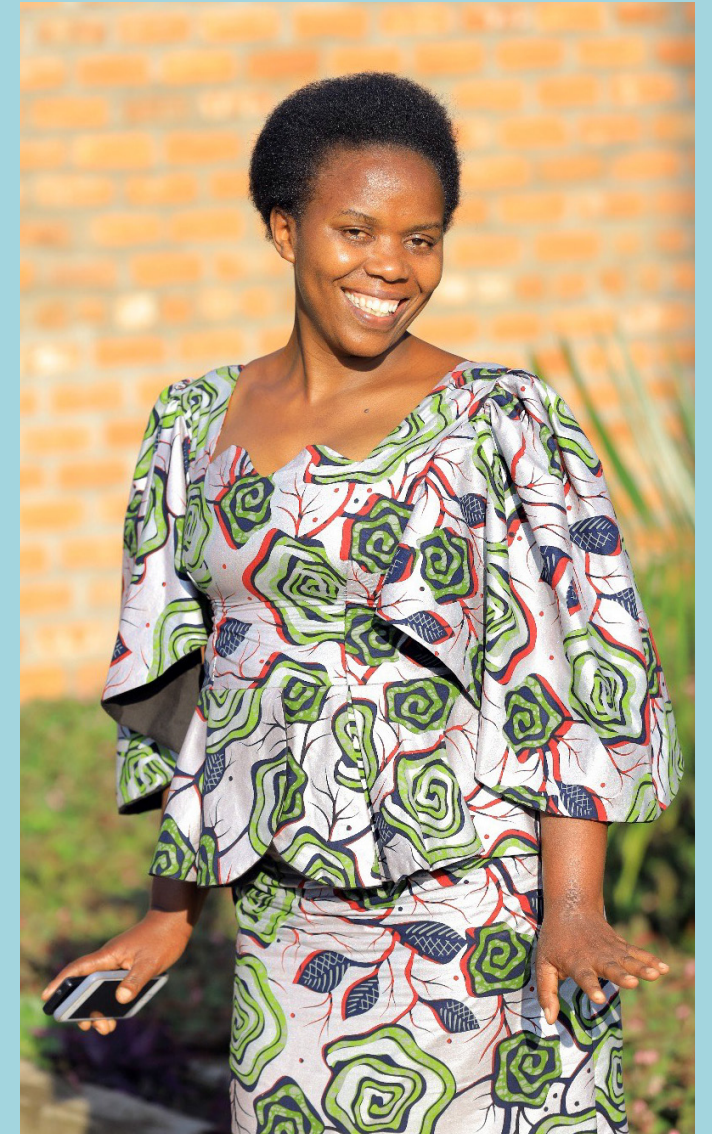
Tony Joy founded Durian to empower rural women in Nigeria by teaching them to convert local waste and resources into marketable products such as jewelry, backpacks, kitchen utensils, and skincare items. With support from World Connect, Durian trained women to transform cocoa pods into body soaps, a skill that has boosted the income of rural women, fostering economic independence and sustainability. The project has led to “good envy” and inspired other communities to follow the lead of Durian’s trainees and learn cocoa pod soap making. Durian is now legally registered and able to distribute products to supermarkets, increasing market reach for their products.

“SOLUTIONS CAN BE SO SIMPLE, BUT HARD TO IMPLEMENT WITHOUT THE NECESSARY FUNDING AND SUPPORT. WE ARE EXCITED TO WATCH THE GROWTH OF WORLD CONNECT RWANDA AS THE ORGANIZATION, A LOCALLY-LED GRANTMAKER, BECOMES A POWERFUL ALLY TO THOSE OF US WORKING TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER.”

—OLIVE NYIRANEZA

OLIVE NYIRANEZA, Rwanda

Olive Nyiraneza is a teacher in Rwanda and founded Ireme Education for Social Impact, an organization that helps communities implement health, education, and community improvement initiatives. With a first grant from World Connect, Olive and her community partners introduced soap making in a school with high rates of intestinal worms. The increased availability of soap for handwashing, through its production at school, has eradicated the health issue. A second grant was awarded to Olive and the team at Ireme Education for Social Impact to scale up soap making training and distribution to other schools in the region.



OUR INVESTORS

**100
NEW
PROJECTS
ANNUALLY**

**AVERAGE
PROJECT
COST:
\$6,900**

WORLD CONNECT, INC. DONORS

\$250,000+

Shelly and Tony Malkin

\$100,000+

The Jonathan and Kathleen
Altman Foundation

Tim Disney

Michael and Barbara Eisenson

Haney Family Fund

Tarek Sherif

\$75,000+

George and Leslie Biddle

John and Elena Coumantaros

\$50,000+

Clara Bingham and Joe Finnerty

Flour Mills Nigeria Plc.

Patrick Healy

Robert Hecht and Shan Soe-Lin

The Jerome Avenue Fund

Sean and Jennifer Reilly

\$25,000+

Andy and Heather Boyd

Kristen Anderson-Lopez and

Robert Lopez

Peter and Isabel Malkin

Project Redwood

David Wells and Sonya Moore-Wells

\$10,000+

Anonymous

Arrillaga Foundation

The Nancy Biddle Family Fund

Linda Cabot and Ed Anderson

Stephanie Cabot and

Marcus Lovell Smith

Glen Davis

Friends of Malawi

Mary Higgins and John Lechner, IV

James and Edwina Hunt

Diane E. Lifton, Trustee, Jerome and

Dolores Zuckerman Gewirtz

Charitable Trust

Scott and Laura Malkin

William O'Farrell

Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation

of Minnesota

The Prosperity Fund

JJ Ramberg and Scott Glass

Margaret and Andrew Schilling

Christopher and Megan Scott

RG and Julia Solmssen

The Zients Family Foundation

\$5,000+

David and Betty Bagnani

Beatrice Hamza Bassey

Katie and Brian Boland

Donald and Betsy Daniel

RL and Christina Dougherty

Elizabeth Galvin

Ellen Goldberg and Barnaby Grist

Irene Haney

Arum Lee Lansel

Milena Lurie

Thomas and Patricia Lightbown

Sang Lee and Chris Mansfield

Jenny and Tony McAuliffe

Sarah and Peter O'Hagan

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Amédée Prouvost and Clare Cushman

Andrea Schwartzman

Sheep Meadow Foundation

Sheinman-Tsanos Family Foundation

Jack and Jennifer Sullivan

Natalie Williams

Ravi and Suzanne Yadav

\$1,000+

Anonymous

Blum Family Foundation

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

Charles and Sarah Cabot

Margaret Cabot

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Catherine Cooper

Kelly Currie and Tara Sher

Ben Cushman and Marc Nadeau

Maria D'Albert

Christopher and Michelle Daniel

Peter and Gabriella Daniel

Joseph Duffy

Lisa Giobbi and Paul Guilfoyle

Margaret Gould Stewart and

David Stewart

Elizabeth and Reade Griffith

Stephanie Hunt and Stephen Trevor

Rehmah Kasule

Karin Day Kingsley and Paul Kingsley

Elizabeth Larsen

Joan Loughnane

Cathy Lurie and H Eric Cushing

The Thomas Newberry Charitable Fund

Newman's Own Foundation

William Nutting

Pannonia Foundation

Katherine and Bo Peabody

Rotary Club of Los Gatos

George and Nancy Rupp

Martha and Paul Samuelson

Viviane Scott

Sevransky Donor Advised Fund

Carrie Simon

Sarah Slusser

Zanthe Taylor and Matthew Lissak

Anthony and Natacha Weiss

\$500+

Daniel and Lucerne Battsek

Molly Bingham

Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Program

Sue and Patrick Higdon

John G. Hockman

Audra Keller

Maureen and Michael Terris

Ayanna Wayner

Christian Zacariassen

\$100+

Anonymous
Maria-Luisa Biddle Duke
Danielle Cochran
Rebecca Eaton and Steven Ashley
Terence Flynn
Gavin Fraser and Jeannine Kerr
Benjamin Frey
Sarah Garwood
Sarah and Ben Gilson
Jai Griem
Julia Haney
Ward Headstrom
Henning Holter and Martine Vice-Holter
Sureyya Hornston
Mbugua "John" Kimani
Helen "Musa" Klebnikov
Adam Landsberg
Dylan Leiner
Pamela Lubeck
Elisabeth Lucas
Mary Kate Marino
Caroline Michaelis
Kathryn Murphy
Johanna Mussche
Melissa Neulander
One4All Charitable Fund
Kevin Plummer
Robert Rooney
Madeleine Smith
Nicholas Tarrant
Patricia Younger

SUSTAINING DONORS

James Day

WORLD CONNECT UK DONORS

£/€25,000+

Louise and Andrew Bedford
Peter and Tiffany Hall
The H. Lepic Family Fund

£/€10,000+

The Bicester Village Shopping Collection

£/€1,000+

Sara Boillot
Christopher and Alison Cabot
Wendy and James Karp

SUSTAINING DONORS

Esme Lovell Smith

MUDZI CONNECT DONORS

\$100,000+

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

\$10,000+

National Bank of Malawi

\$1,000+

Africa Philanthropy Network
Anonymous
Horizon Global
U.S. Embassy in Malawi



Esme on a recent visit with members of the Katengeza Cooperative in Malawi. Photo by Natacha Weiss.

"I GIVE MONTHLY BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF WORLD CONNECT. EVEN GIVING A SMALL AMOUNT EACH MONTH, I KNOW I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD."

**—ESME LOVELL SMITH
WORLD CONNECT UK
BOARD MEMBER &
SUSTAINING DONOR**



World Connect led a group of supporters on a trip to Malawi in October 2024 to visit five projects and meet and celebrate with our community partners and the Mudzi Connect team, a locally-led community investment partner.

INVEST AND CELEBRATE WITH US



World Connect gathered 300 supporters in May of 2024 to celebrate the “Power Inside Women” at its annual benefit dinner in New York City. Rita Idehai was awarded the Founder’s Prize for her environmental work to advance recycling in Nigeria and speakers included Rehmah Kasule, Board Member, Lola James, a grantee whose work has focused on advancing literacy for children in Nigeria, and Arelis Figueroa, a grantee whose work focuses on entrepreneurship training for new immigrants to New York City. Photos by Sofia Verzbolovskis.



Musical performances by Mercedes Escobar and Erin Maya Lawrence. To watch the film from the evening made by Katherine Goguen, scan here.



To view other videos made by Henry Michaelis, Timmy Summers, and Desmond Clancy of Hillside Films, visit World Connect’s YouTube page.



Activate Power
DONATE



FOR US TAX
BENEFIT

INVEST AND CELEBRATE WITH US



“TOGETHER, WE TRANSFORM IDEAS INTO OPPORTUNITIES AND PROJECTS INTO SUCCESSES.”

—SARA BOILLOT
WORLD CONNECT UK
AMBASSADOR



World Connect UK gathered 400 people at the Théâtre Montparnasse in Paris in January 2024 to enjoy a performance and support the global work of investing in community-led development. The evening featured a presentation by Hafsat Abiola, a World Connect UK Board Member and a dedicated advocate for women in Nigeria and across Africa.



Activate Power
DONATE



FOR EUROPEAN/UK
TAX BENEFIT

WORLD CONNECT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF DECEMBER 31 2023

ASSETS

Cash	\$	432,990
Contributions Receivable		358,489
Investments		478,886
Prepaid Expenses		11,602
Other Assets, net		102,216

Total Assets \$ 1,437,505

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$	307,567
Deferred Revenue		11,065

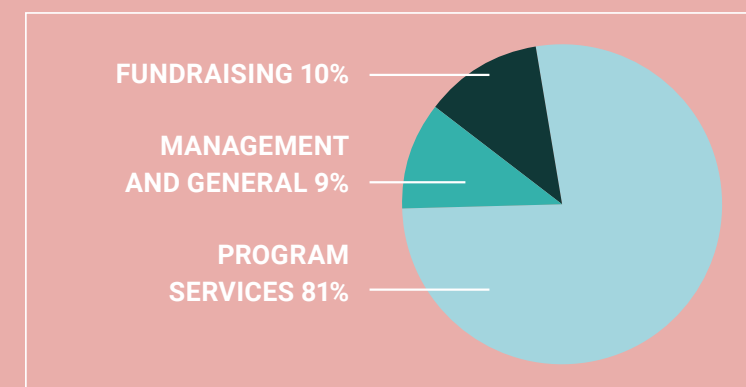
Total Liabilities \$ 318,632

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$	533,143
With Donor Restrictions		585,730

Total Net Assets \$ 1,118,873

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 1,437,505



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

2023

Contributions and Grants	\$	2,056,821
Government Grants		11,088
Donated/In Kind Services		93,971
(Loss) Gain on Foreign Currency Translation		(8,429)
Investment (Loss) Gain		30,925
Other Income		12,253

Total Support and Revenue \$ 2,196,629

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$	2,230,379
Supporting Expenses		
Management and General	\$	254,044
Fundraising and Development	\$	270,755

Total Expenses \$ 2,755,178

Change in Net Assets* \$ (558,549)

*The financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 were impacted by the required accounting treatment for multi-year pledges under US GAAP and timing of a projected grant approval, resulting in a deficit for the year. Adjusting for multi-year pledges, a net of \$225,000 would be recognized as revenue to cover costs in 2023, and \$300,000 in grant funding expected in 2023 was approved in 2024.

OUR TEAM

Ecuador Connect
Alli Tolbert
Program Associate

Mudzi Connect, Malawi
Ruth Chamangwana
Program Manager

Zione James
Program Assistant

Jonathan Kasakera
Finance Officer

Frank Kasonga
Executive Director

Bertha Mukhuna
Program Officer

Nigeria Connect
Obasanjo Fajemirokun
Field Agent

NYC Connect
Nina Watkins
Director

World Connect Rwanda
Rhoda Kanyesigye
Executive Director

Asaba Emmanuel
Program Associate

World Connect, Inc.
Christine Lackowski
Chief Operating Officer

Kathryn Murphy
Global Director of Partnerships

Pamela Nathenson
Executive Director

Natacha Weiss
Partner Liaison

World Connect UK
Patrick Higdon
Executive Director

World Connect Guatemala
Lidia Oxí
Directora Nacional

LAUNCHING GUATEMALA



Lidia Oxí joined World Connect in 2024 to lead grantmaking in Guatemala and build a Locally-Led Development Hub that sustains community development investment from the inside. Lidia previously served as Co-Executive Director of MAIA, the only organization of its size led by indigenous women serving Maya communities and that is redefining education in Guatemala through a holistic model that combines academics, culture and identity, wellness, emotional intelligence, and personal development. Lidia is a fellow of the Vital Voices Engage Program, Gratitude Network, Global Governance Forum and MIT Solve. She is committed to social justice, access to education, gender equity and indigenous rights. Lidia is part of the board of Directors of Women Justice Initiatives, Mujeres Liderando Guatemala, the Maya Economic Development Corporation, MAIA and member of the global councils of One Young World Indigenous Council and Community Centric Fundraising.



From left: Frank Kasonga, Ruth Chamangwana, Pamela Nathenson, Bertha Mukhuna, Zione James, Jonathan Kasakera



From left: Kathryn Murphy, Patrick Higdon, Natacha Weiss, Pamela Nathenson, Nina Watkins, Christine Lackowski, Vanessa Adebayo



From left back row: Patrick Higdon, George Biddle, Christine Lackowski. From left front row: Lidia Oxí, Rigoberta Menchú, Pamela Nathenson, Alli Tolbert.



Executive Director Pamela Nathenson with Guatemala President, Bernardo Arévalo, at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

World Connect, Inc. Board of Directors

George Biddle, Chairman
Stephanie Cabot, Secretary
James Hunt, Treasurer
Christoph Becker
Clara Bingham
Courtenay Cabot Venton
Tamala Chirwa
John Coumantaros
Glen Davis
Ellen Goldberg
Julia Haney
Robert Hecht
Rehmah Kasule
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Front cover photo: An investment of \$7,000 from World Connect Rwanda enabled a mother's group to build a child care center, pictured here are three of the mother leaders. The Government of Rwanda committed to provide two teachers in perpetuity to staff the child care center. The local sustainability of this project demonstrates the value of World Connect's community co-investment model. World Connect invests in ideas that come from communities, that are led by and owned by communities, and that achieve sustainability through local sustained funding and commitment. *Photo by Phoenix Johnson.*

Back cover photo: The Katengeza Cooperative formed in Malawi to develop income generating opportunities for women and girls affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and was able to increase revenue 400% by improving their nutritional herb packaging with a first investment of \$685 from Mudzi Connect. After two additional larger business development investments, one being World Connect's Founder's Prize, Katengeza has seen a 32,000% increase in revenue. Ripple effects throughout the community include reductions in gender-based violence, increases in financial literacy, and diversification of businesses. Pictured on the cover is a mother, on the right, who is a member of the cooperative and who with her earnings purchased a sewing machine for her daughter. Her daughter is now able to run her own tailoring business and cover her own health care costs to manage her sickle cell anemia. *Photo by Pamela Nathenson.*

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