



Maasai Partners
of Ngorongoro Community Network, Inc.

2024 Project Summary

Who We Are



Theresia, a loan group member from Alchaniomelok, sells onions as part of her small business

Maasai Partners of Ngorongoro Community Network, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is based in Oakham, MA and operates in Tanzania. Since our incorporation in 2013, our mission has remained the same: Providing the people of Northern Tanzania with programs to improve their standard of living through access to quality education, health care, and a means to achieve their own financial independence and security. To this end, we are involved in several areas of Tanzanian life, such as sponsoring students, funding a mobile medical clinic, and supporting women's loan programs. We are always trying out new programs to help our community achieve financial independence, and once we find something that works, we stick with it. Currently, we are just starting a new beekeeping program, which will provide training to new beekeepers so that they can sell honey and other bee products.

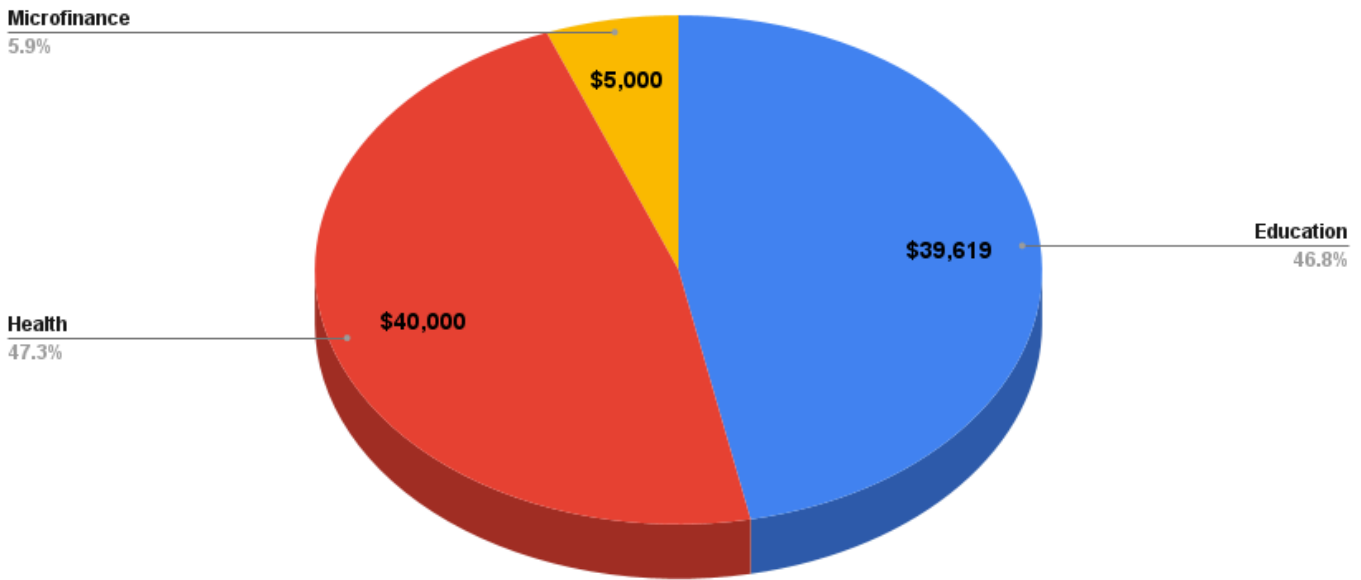
We envision resilient indigenous communities, living with dignity and the freedom to determine their own cultural identities and lifestyle. We strive to help create a thriving, sustainable culture inclusive of gender equality, independence, and basic human rights for all.

Due to the strict regulations enforced by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, there are very few organizations who manage to service this geographical area (and the indigenous Maasai population who live here). This makes our work all the more essential, in order to ensure that the Maasai who continue to steward these ancestral lands are able to continue enjoying their traditional lifestyles. Since subsistence agriculture is restricted within the conservation area, the Maasai rely on food grown outside of this heavily regulated area. In the photo above, a woman involved in our microfinance loan program uses funds to purchase onions from town and bring them back to her village to both sell to her neighbors and to feed her family. We spend time getting to know our communities, working together and listening to the needs that are identified by the various villages. Once identified, we then utilize our own resources as well as our partnerships (both local and international) in order to effectively address those needs.

"Empowering women through access to loans, education and health care"

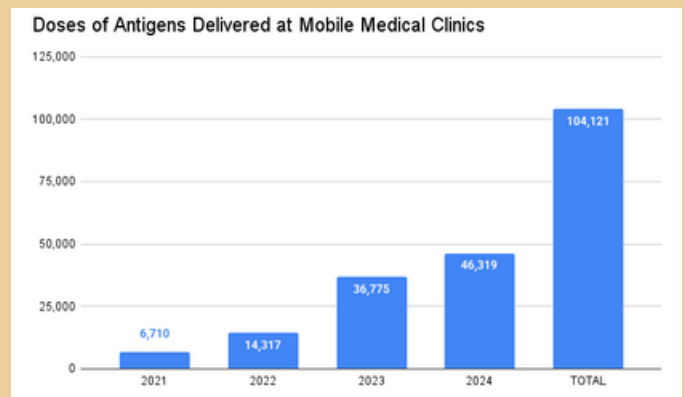
Overview of Programs

Program Expenses



The pie chart above shows how our program budget was spent in 2024. It covers our three longest-running programs, and makes up 80% of our total expenses as an organization since we have very little overhead costs. The \$40,000 we used to fund our **mobile medical clinic provides health care to 47 villages** within Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) each month, with a total of 564 mobile medical clinics being held throughout the year. These clinics provide vaccinations of preventable diseases to children under 5 years, teen girls and pregnant mothers, growth monitoring of children 5 years and under, antenatal care, health education sessions and treatment of common conditions. 46,389 vaccines were delivered to the Maasai during this year alone (up from 6,710 vaccines delivered when we started funding the mobile medical clinic in 2021). \$39,619 was spent **educating 26 students** from the primary level all the way up to the Master's level. To date, more than 16 students have completed one or more sponsorships since 2012. Since our **microfinance program is mostly self-sufficient** (the interest collected from loans covering most overhead costs), this program makes up the smallest sector of our budget at \$5,000. The Ganako Women's Community Organization (GWOCO) loan program--the nonprofit that we partnered with to start our Karatu loan program in back in 2012--had **480 total borrowers** this year, taking out **586 loans** amounting to a total of **\$127,259 issued in loans in 2024**. Since the start of the program, 9,309 total loans have been issued to a total of 3,335 women borrowers, amounting to \$1,368,827 total in loans over the years.

The bar graph to the right shows the number of vaccines delivered each year since we started the mobile medical program. The amount of vaccines delivered in 2024 increased 590% from the amount distributed in 2021.



Mobile Medical Program



Dr. Shemaghembe, who runs the Mobile Medical Clinic that we sponsor through his non-profit Community Health Access & Environmental Conservation (CHAEC), received this certificate of recognition from the Ngorongoro District Council for all of the amazing work he has done. Mission-driven, he works tirelessly to vaccinate and provide growth monitoring for children, vaccinate and provide antenatal services for pregnant mothers, provide treatment for common conditions, and deliver educational health classes within the hard-to-reach Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Since very few organizations work in this area, he has helped to more than double the impact of the governmental health services there.

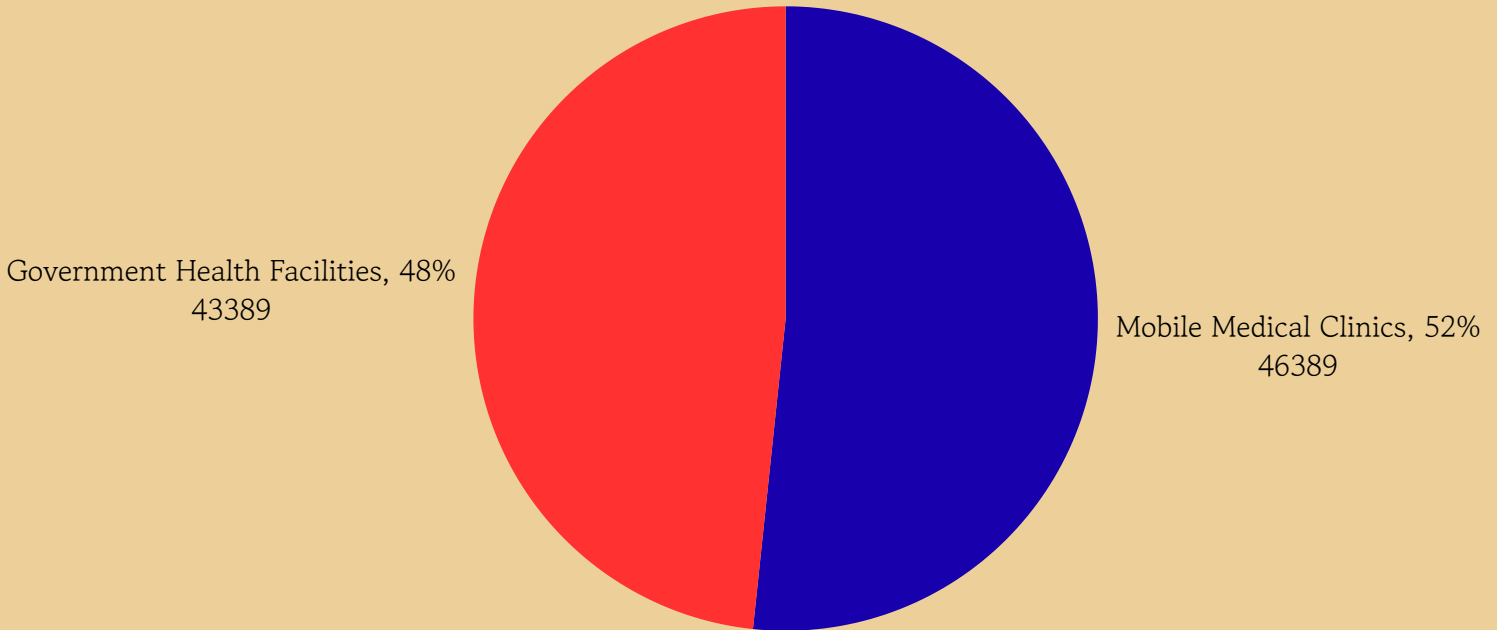
In the photo to the right, Dr. Shemaghembe stands in front of his Mobile Medical setup (Toyota Land Cruiser that can access these remote areas, and a tow-behind trailer which serves as a private examination room), with proudly HPV-vaccinated girls from the village near Empakai crater. In the photo below, school girls dance with their vaccine certificates.



Accomplishments: Mobile Medical Clinics

Number of Vaccines Delivered in 2024 Government Health Facilities vs. Mobile Medical Clinics

- Mobile Medical Clinics, 52%
- Government Health Facilities, 48%



Funding the mobile medical clinic is one of the most impactful things we have done as an organization. Despite constant obstacles, Dr. Shemaghembe, a “retired” government health provider, continues to impress us by almost single-handedly vaccinating more than half of the Maasai population living in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Through his non-profit, Community Health Access & Environmental Conservation (CHAEC), he works 6 days a week to provide health care to **47 villages each month**. Without his essential services, this population faces possible outbreaks of preventable disease, such as Measles. The government realizes this, and has presented his non-profit many certificates of appreciation over the years. We fully fund this mobile medical program with the help of our partner organization WMI, and our incredibly thoughtful donors. Thank you for allowing us to provide much-needed health care services to this traditionally underserved indigenous population. Click here to read CHAEC’s 2024 Annual Report: [CHAEC MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC ANNUAL REPORT 2024](#)



To the left, a volunteer of the mobile medical clinic supplements an infant with Vitamin A drops. Due to the regulations in the conservation area, the Maasai people are not allowed to grow sustenance crops. This means they survive solely on the byproducts of their cattle, and the food they can afford to bring in from outside the conservation area. Without necessary vitamin supplementation, children under five risk becoming severely malnourished.

Accomplishments: Scholarship Program



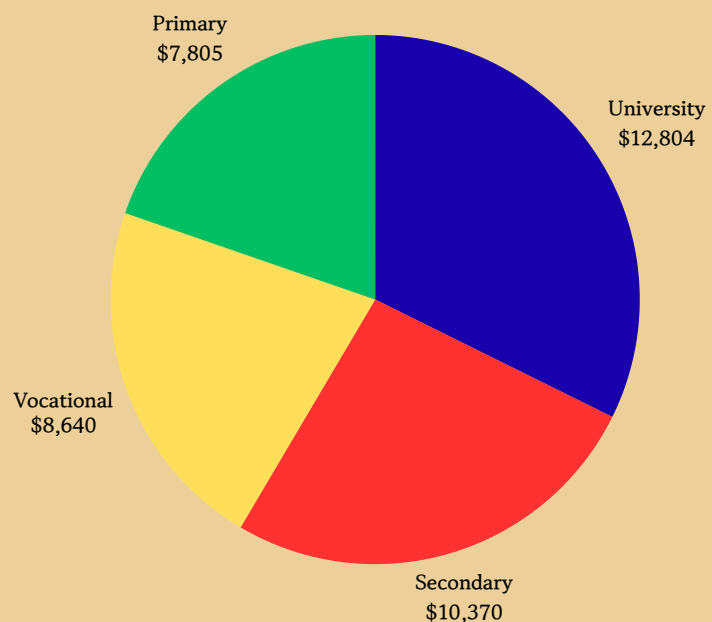
This year, we sponsored 24 students in total between primary, secondary and university levels. 12 of those students studied at the Tumaini schools. *Tumaini* consists of two quality English language-based nonprofit private boarding and day schools. Tumaini Junior Primary is located in Karatu, and Tumaini Senior Secondary School is located in Makuyuni. These schools are often ranked #1 in their district, and our student Nosim often ranks #1 in her class of 81 students at Tumaini Primary. We have 6 students at Tumaini Primary, and 6 at Tumaini Senior. We also sponsor 6 more students (2 in primary and 4 in secondary) at other private schools within Northern Tanzania, 6 more at University and 2 at vocational programs, where students learn an employable trade. See pie chart below for the breakdown of our educational expenses.



Nosim at Tumaini Primary, where she often ranks top of her class

2024 Education Grants: \$39,619

Expense by Grade Level



Letter from a

Student



Tumaini is our first male (and second overall) sponsored student to graduate with a Masters degree, the first being Salmina, who studied engineering management and graduated 6 months prior in June of this year (photo below). Tumaini wrote us the most thoughtful letter, thanking us for sponsoring his Masters of Science. We extend our sincerest "thanks" to our donors, who have made it possible for us to help alter the course of Tumaini's life, and solidify his commitment to making meaningful contributions to the field of biodiversity conservation. This opportunity means the world to these students, and Tumaini is currently (eagerly) looking into a PhD program to continue his education.



Salmina Shemaghembe,
Masters Engineering Mgmt,
Univ of Dar es Salaam '24

Dear Maasai Partners,

I am writing with profound gratitude and appreciation for your unwavering sponsorship of my Masters of Science in Biodiversity Conservation over the two consecutive years at the University of Dar es Salaam. Your support has been transformative, enabling me to pursue advanced studies in a field that I am deeply passionate about.

Your generosity has not only relieved financial burdens, but has also empowered me to immerse myself fully in the academic and research aspects of biodiversity conservation. The University of Dar es Salaam has provided an exceptional environment for learning and growth, and your sponsorship has played a pivotal role in making this educational journey possible.

As I approach the conclusion of my Masters program, I am excited to share that this experience has solidified my commitment to advancing knowledge in biodiversity conservation. With your encouragement and support, I am eagerly looking forward to the prospect of pursuing Ph.D. studies, building upon the strong foundation laid during my time at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Your belief in my potential has not only enhanced my academic pursuits but has also inspired a sense of responsibility to contribute meaningfully to the conservation of our planet's biodiversity. I am committed to applying the knowledge and skills gained during my Masters to address critical challenges in this field.

Once again, thank you for being a guiding light in my educational journey. Your sponsorship has not only shaped my academic experience but has also fueled my aspirations for further research and exploration in biodiversity conservation. I am sincerely grateful for your support and am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

With deep appreciation,

Tumaini Tumbeine Oleletoyo

Accomplishments: Microloan Program

Resilient Communities Africa Foundation (ReCAF)

Resilient Communities Africa Foundation, or ReCAF, was started by Kisiaya and Maria Saruni in 2021 within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), in the remote village of Alcheniomelok. In 2024, our Microfinance grant enabled them to expand the loan program in Alailelai ward to include 4 more loan groups serving 83 women, who received loans of 150,000 Tanzanian Shillings each (around \$60). More importantly, ReCAF staff members provided these new loan recipients with training regarding how to manage their loans and their businesses. Staff gives ongoing support to these loan groups for as long as they need it, and Maria leads by example with her small shop in the village where the loan program resides. Despite having graduated with a business degree from the University of Dar es Salaam (the nation's capital), Maria chooses to remain in the village. In helping us to understand, she writes: "Living in Alcheniomelok allows me to understand their [loan recipient] struggles firsthand, and be available when they need support. While I sometimes travel to Karatu and Arusha [nearby towns] for work, my home and purpose remain in the village." She continues "At first, I was motivated by the need to empower women financially. I saw how lack of access to credit kept many women dependent and struggling. Over time, my motivation deepened - I realized that financial empowerment also improves women's confidence, decision-making power, and overall well-being. **Now, I continue because I see real change happening. Women are starting businesses, sending their children to school, and gaining respect in their households. That keeps me going.**"

-Maria Saruni



Maria & Kisiaya Saruni, ReCAF co-founders



Maria shows us her small shop in the village

Through GWOCO, in 2024...



Leaders of the GWOCO loan program, left to right: Jane (accountant), Josephine (founder), Levina (treasurer), Renada (chair), Martha (secretary) and Emani (vice chair)

480 borrowers



took out

586 loans

to total

\$127,259



in total loans distributed



Our Current Partners



Community Health Access & Environmental Conservation (CHAEC)

CHAEC works in hard-to-reach areas of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) to provide accessible, essential health care services to communities who live far from existing health facilities by conducting mobile medical clinics in collaboration with staff from 13 health facilities.



Ganako Women's Community Organization (GWOCO)

GWOCO is the nonprofit Community Based Organization (CBO) that we partnered with to start our Karatu loan program in back in 2012. This group that started out small in the village of Tloma currently empowers 480 women in 15 villages to improve their lives through small business loans.



Hidden Hope Foundation (HHF)

Hidden Hope Foundation (HHF) is a community-based organization in Karatu, Tanzania, dedicated to empowering people with disabilities through meaningful work and creative expression. By providing the tools, materials, and support needed to create traditional Tanzanian art, they help disabled artisans to earn an income, gain independence, and contribute to their communities.



Northern Tanzania Beekeeping Company (NTBC)

Northern Tanzania Beekeeping Company (NTBC) is our most recent partner. These professional Tanzanian beekeepers recently facilitated the hands-on trainings for the 10 new beekeepers that we sent to them in Ololosokwan village, on the eastern edge of the Serengeti National Park.



Resilient Communities Africa Foundation (ReCAF)

ReCAF envisages to address socio-economic and environmental challenges facing local and marginalized communities in northern Tanzania to adopt resilient mechanisms and thrive through community-oriented sustainable development initiatives such as microloans and business training.



Weston Turville Wells for Tanzania (WTWT)

WTWT supports the Maasai in and around the Ngorongoro Conservation Area with their work finding solutions to their current issues which are causing widespread hunger and ill health. Projects include different methods of accessing clean water, year-round food availability, sponsoring child and adult education, improved health care facilities, health education and microfinance loans with training for women opening up business opportunities.



Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI)

WMI is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that provides loans to women in rural East Africa to help them start and expand their small businesses. Loans are issued to small groups of 20 borrowers, all of whom guarantee each other's repayment. WMI also provides borrowers with training in financial literacy, business management, record-keeping and financial planning to ensure that borrowers have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. Women use their business profits to pay school fees, buy more food for their families, improve their homes, pay for health care, expand their businesses and more.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS!

Financial Statement for January through December 2024 (unaudited)

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2024): **\$ 76,425.53**

INCOME

	<u>Amount</u>
Donations	\$48,246.00
Grants Received	\$ 10,000.00
Net Craft Sales	\$ 20,857.35
Interest	<u>\$ 3.01</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 79,106.36

EXPENSES

Grants Awarded-

Community Health Access & Environmental Conservation Organization (CHAEC)	\$ 40,000.00
Tumaini Education Corp (TEC) Scholarships (1 Primary + 5 Secondary)	\$ 5,190.00
Primary Scholarships (Other, 6 students)	\$ 6,940.00
Secondary Scholarships (Other, 5 students)	\$ 6,045.00
College, Graduate & Vocational Scholarships (8 students)	\$ 21,444.00
Resilient Communities Africa Foundation (ReCAF) Microfinance Loan Program	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>

Total Grants Awarded: **\$ 84,619.00**

Wire Fees	\$ 1,172.45
PayPal/Venmo Fees	\$ 101.16
MA Filing & Annual Report Fee	\$ 110.32
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 381.42</u>
Other Expenses:	\$ 1,765.35

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 86,384.35**

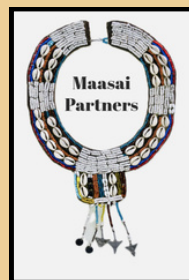
Ending balance (as of Dec 31st, 2024): **\$ 69,147.54**



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