



2022 Annual Report



Cultivating Opportunities

Founded in 2012, Mwanzo's mission is to cultivate opportunities through education and community-driven development in Rabuor Village, Kenya, and neighboring communities.

We envision a vibrant, restored Rabuor and her neighboring communities, offering new beginnings for generations to come.

Mwanzo honors and centers the talent and knowledge of local people. All of our programs focus on community-identified needs, and local stakeholders are central to program development and operations. Thanks to the hard work of our brothers and sisters in Kenya and our funding partners, "Hope has a Home Here!"



Reflecting on 2022

Dear friends of Mwanzo,

In March 2022, I received an international phone call from Charles Odhiambo, a student who was sponsored for high school over 10 years ago. He told me, "I planted an apple tree in your yard so that someday you will eat fruits from the rare tree. You made it possible for me to be educated—a dream I could not dare to vision. Please know I am enjoying the fruit of your labor, and that is my way of showing it."

Last year Mwanzo celebrated our 10th anniversary, and I shared with you Mwanzo's many extraordinary achievements including a new Community Center and the fact that some of our first pre-school students had finished grade 8! With this Annual Report I'm excited to share how our work in 2022 has continued to bear fruit.

Eight of those eighth-grade graduates left the village this January to attend high schools around Kenya, supported by our new Mwanzo Scholars Fund. Tears of joy come to my eyes as I think about how the world is opening for them as it did for Charles.

In 2022 we added a third floor to the Community Center. The ground floor daycare is already open,

and soon we will furnish the rooms and put the rest of the building into use. Now the women's group and the PTA won't have to wait for an empty classroom or meet outside. What's more, after years of dreaming and planning, we now have solar panels on the roof to supply electricity to power lights in the three floors, computers, and health room when furnished.

At Mwanzo Wetu Center of Excellence Academy, the number of students and staff has increased, and extracurricular activities have expanded to include music, debating, drama, soccer, and scouting clubs. MWCEA also has an improved energy source—a one-ton propane gas tank to replace firewood used for cooking. Trees are saved, and staff and students do not suffer the adverse health effects from the intense smoke.

I can attest that you, my friends, are planting trees which will bear fruit in the future: education, economic stability, health, timber, and shade.

Because you care, HOPE HAS A HOME! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Loyce Ong'udi

Loyce Ong'udi



Loyce Ong'udi
Executive Director

Nurturing the Next Generation of Leaders

Mwanzo Wetu Center of Excellence Academy (MWCEA) serves 300 students aged two through eighth grade. Students receive two nutritious meals, an updated competency-based curriculum covering academics and life skills, including agriculture and computers, and extracurricular activities like scouting, sports, drama, and music.



In 2022, MWCEA built a new playground and celebrated our first class of eighth grade graduates. Eight of the graduates were supported to attend high schools in cities around Kenya through our inaugural Mwanzo Scholars Fund.

Building Community

A photograph showing several construction workers at a site. In the foreground, a worker in a green shirt is bent over, mixing concrete in a large blue barrel. To the right, two other workers are visible: one wearing a blue hat and a grey tank top, and another wearing a red headwrap and a yellow t-shirt. They are standing near a structure under construction, which is supported by a dense network of vertical wooden poles. The background shows a partially completed wall made of grey stone blocks. The overall scene is one of active manual labor in a rural setting.

Construction of a new community center has been underway, and is scheduled to complete in 2024. Located adjacent to MWCEA, this three-story building will provide important services including a community health clinic and a computer lab with fax/copy and internet services. Community members currently walk 3-4 miles to the nearest health clinic and 20 miles to the nearest computer lab to access these services.

The center will also house a library, a community room, Mwanzo's Early Childhood Development program, a room to house junior high students, MWCEA's science lab, and Mwanzo's Kenya office.

This sort of project is a large undertaking in a rural community like Rabuor. The ongoing construction provides work and skills training for up to 60 laborers a day, and the income they earn helps feed families around the community.

Feeding Families and Adapting to Climate Change

Mwanzo Energetic Proud Farmers (MEPF) provides agricultural training and supports families to acquire seeds and fertilizer, helping the communities around Rabuor feed their families and adapt to climate change. MEPF also runs the Agroforestry and Poultry Projects, providing families with food and income.



Training

Trainings cover topics such as raised kitchen gardens, poultry, growing trees, pests, using fertilizer, and adapting to climate change. Over 200 people attended trainings in 2022.



Poultry

The Poultry Project funds building chicken coops, providing income and nutrition. Extra eggs are shared with neighbors for their hens to brood, benefitting the wider community.



Agroforestry

The Agroforestry Project grows and sells tree seedlings, supporting local families with income and providing the region with food, timber, and environmental benefits.



Water

The installation of five rainwater tanks this year provides MWCEA, MEPF, and the community center with a safe supply of water, saving time hauling water and preventing water-borne diseases.

Empowering Entrepreneurs



Village Savings & Loan

Microfinance networks fund short-term loans for people who can't qualify for bank loans including subsistence farmers and HIV widows. Loans have allowed recipients to feed their families, open new businesses, repair their homes, afford medicine, and fund their children's education. In 2022, fifty-seven children were able to proceed with their education due to these loans.



Wetu Catering Group

Wetu Catering Group served over 38,600 people in 2022. Income from catering events provides cash for individuals, helps fund the microfinance network, and allows the group to buy equipment to expand the business, such as the new PA system purchased this year.



Tailoring Project

The Tailoring Project, launched in 2021, makes and sells school uniforms and masks. When the community center opens, skills training will be expanded to others in the community.

Melvin's Story



Melvin, age 16, comes from Kamalunga village in Siaya County. She is an orphan and the second of seven siblings. She loves school and hopes to get a college education and be a teacher.

Melvin had been attending St. Lawrence Hekima Primary School in Budalangi, a community

45 miles from Rabuor. Due to torrential rain brought about by climate change, their school building was washed away in flooding at the beginning of 2022. Melvin and the other eighth grade students were facing the prospect of failing to complete their studies, and as a result losing the chance to continue to a high school education.

Mwanzo and community leaders offered to host the eighth grade students for the 2022 school year, welcoming them to study and live at Mwanzo Wetu Center of Excellence Academy and in local homes. A talented singer, Melvin performed as a soloist and led choruses in school.

After sitting the national exams in November, Melvin graduated from eighth grade and now attends high school in Budalangi.

Millicent's Story

Millicent discovered she was HIV/AIDS positive when she fell ill after the death of her husband in 2011. Left with two young daughters, Millicent, who had only an eighth grade education, had limited options for employment. During this period, when stigma from HIV/AIDS was at its peak and antiretrovirals were expensive beyond reach, Millicent's survival was precarious. Millicent heard of Mwanzo Energetic Proud Farmers (MEPF) and reached out.

Participating in microfinance, agricultural, and entrepreneurship programs through MEPF, Millicent proved to be creative and hardworking, and in 2021 MEPF helped her build a chicken coop and begin her chicken business. With a loan from the microfinance network in 2022, Millicent was able to buy 20 new chicks and more feed, allowing her to expand her flock.

After raising and selling the chickens, Millicent repaid her loan and used the proceeds to renovate her home and to pay the high school fees of her daughter. Today, Millicent has a thriving chicken business and a rainwater storage tank, allowing her to support her family and share water with her neighbors.



What's Ahead for Mwanzo

Now that the structure of the new community center is in place, Mwanzo is moving forward to bring it into operation. These last stages include:

- Installing a ramp.
- Adding a biodigester or additional outhouse.
- Furnishing the health room, library, computer lab, and science room.
- Improving the daycare room with additional toys and furnishings.

In Fall 2023, the 25 members of MWCEA's second 8th grade class will graduate. We are hopeful donors will generously support the Mwanzo Scholar Fund so that they will be able to attend high school.

Help fund the future

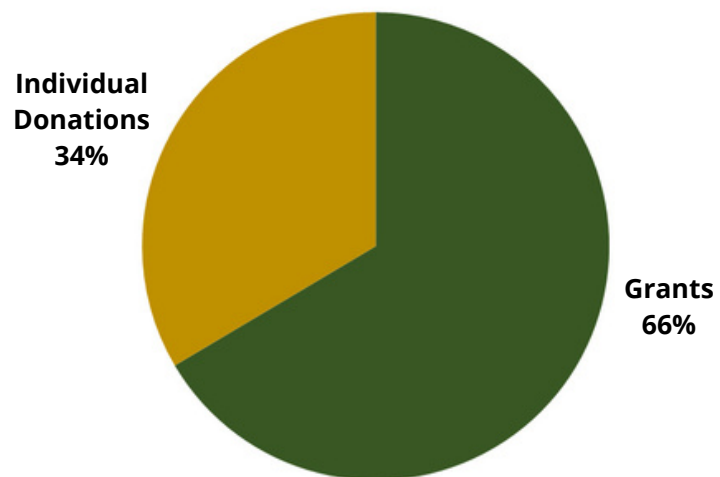
As we continue construction of the community center, and maintain our solid programs for nurturing students, agriculture, and microenterprises, we invite you to help us build a financially secure future. If you are interested in leaving a lasting legacy, please contact info@mwanzo.org.



Our Financials

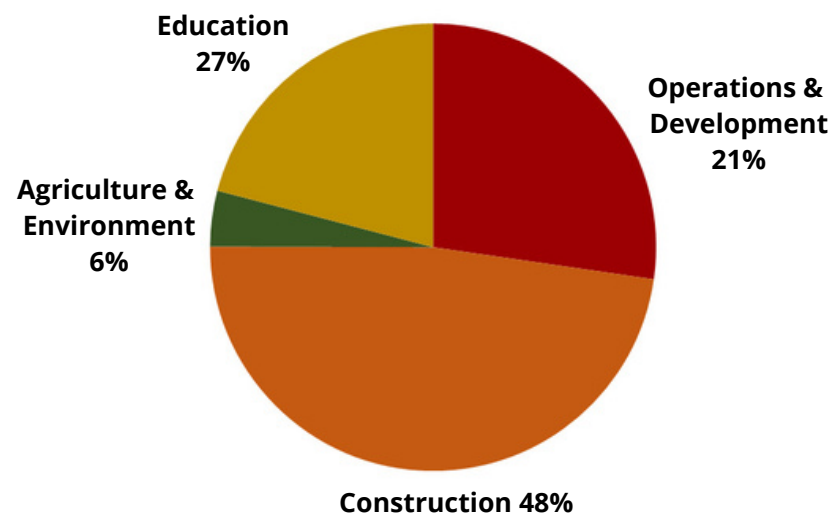
Revenues FY22

Total Revenues: \$589,009



Expenditures FY22

Total Expenditures: \$420,192



Thank you to our partners!

We are very grateful for the individuals and organizations who have joined us on this journey. Thanks to you, hope has a home here!

