

# 20 24



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Front Cover Image: Agness Manda, Njira Impact, Malawi



Geoffrey Kinaalwa celebrates with school leadership and staff. Partners for Community Transformation, Uganda.



# From Our Incoming Executive Director

As we reflect on 2024 with deep gratitude, we also mark a profound milestone: Blood:Water's 20th anniversary. Two decades ago, our founders stepped out in faith onto an uncharted path, with an unwavering belief in the power of local communities to lead the response to the HIV/AIDS crisis disproportionately impacting the African continent.

Together, we mobilized grassroots generosity to directly resource communities—delivering life-saving water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions, and integrated physical, emotional, and material support to families impacted by HIV/AIDS. As treatment and prevention options advanced, so too did our partners' strategies – building resilience and dignity across generations.

Over the years, we've forged an 'ahead of its time' community-centered philanthropic partnership. With your support, our partners have expanded health access to 1.9 million people across 12 countries, and through organizational strengthening investments, reached an estimated 11 million across all their programs with greater impact. This legacy is still unfolding.

Even as we celebrate, we face a critical and unprecedented inflection point. Global health funding is being dismantled, threatening the very progress we have fought to achieve. But within this lies an opportunity for us once again: to reimagine a future where the global response is driven by local leadership—trusted, resourced, and equipped to address root causes of vulnerability at a greater scale than ever before. This is what our organization and our partnership model was created for.

As you read on, I invite you to look ahead with us, and be part of a bold vision—one that meets the urgency of this moment and propels us into a future where we ambitiously scale our model to go further than ever before. Together, we can help fill this unimaginable gap and resource more community-led partners across Africa through long-term, trust-based commitments. We're not waiting for policy to shift; we're acting now, standing in the gap to uphold the dignity and health of every individual—one life, one community at a time.

This new chapter is not about reinvention, but deepened resolve. It is about boldly stewarding the legacy entrusted to us and reimagining what's possible when proximity, partnership, and our collective commitment lead the way, transforming a threat into a powerful demonstration that fullness of life belongs to us all equally.

Let this be a defining moment. Let it be said that we rose—together—to ensure we never again return to the time and place that we started from.

With gratitude and hope,



**Nadia Kist**  
Executive Director



Nadia Kist in the field with Jovanice Arinaitwe, Partners for Community Transformation, Uganda



# Our Why

Communities and locally-led, community-based organizations are already driving meaningful impact through their knowledge, resilience, and innovation.

Yet, the development sector has largely undervalued their contributions. Therefore, despite decades of effort and trillions of dollars spent, health disparities in East and Southern Africa persist, driven by complex, interconnected challenges, including the ongoing impact of HIV/AIDS and inadequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

These locally-led organizations are the most effective change agents impacting health disparities, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 & 6. Still, they receive less than 10% of global funding — and less than .1% in flexible funding — to strengthen their organizational health and invest in long-term solutions. This lack of support undermines their sustainability and challenges their full missional potential.

Blood:Water was built to be different. In 2024, as it has for the past twenty years, Blood:Water remains committed to supporting the mission, vision, and strength of locally-led organizations — where partners lead, funding is flexible, and communities are honored as the heart of lasting change.

# Our Mission

Blood:Water partners with African community-driven organizations to end water- and HIV/AIDS-related health disparities through organizational strengthening and financial support

“Partnership with Blood:Water is unique because Blood:Water allows us to drive our mission and set our agenda.”

-Jimmy Katuma  
Executive Director of COPRED

# Our Model

Blood:Water finds, vets, and partners with growth-stage organizations operating on the fringes of the funding ecosystem whose work is already evidencing meaningful change. We commit to eight-year partnerships that combine organizational strengthening (OS) investments with flexible funding to advance sustained community-led health and resilience.



Healthy Partners. Healthy Communities.



# Celebrating 20 Years

In 2024, Blood:Water proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary. While much has changed since 2004, our unwavering commitment to supporting local partners with integrity remains the same. What began as a dream to address HIV through WASH has always been rooted in a deeper mission: to do so by partnering with locally-led, community-driven organizations.

Jena Nardella, our co-founder captured this vision in the early days of Blood:Water:

“What if we discovered **African-led organizations** across Africa that are already doing great work in the areas of water and HIV/AIDS... we could champion them, listen to them, humanize the experience, and try our best never to strip dignity away from another.” -Jena Nardella, *One Thousand Wells*



Twenty years later this vision endures. We continue to champion local organizations, listen to their vision, respect their experience, and partner with dignity. Through doing so we celebrate two decades of impact:

**\$47 million raised**

SUPPORTING

**35 partner organizations**

ACROSS

**12 African countries**

DIRECTLY SERVING

**1.9 million people with locally-led HIV & WASH programs**

As we honor the work of the past twenty years, we know Blood:Water's mission is far from complete. We are looking boldly to the future with an audacious goal:

For the next 20 years, Blood:Water will strengthen 80 partner organizations, impacting the health and resilience of 28 million people.










AND WITH STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

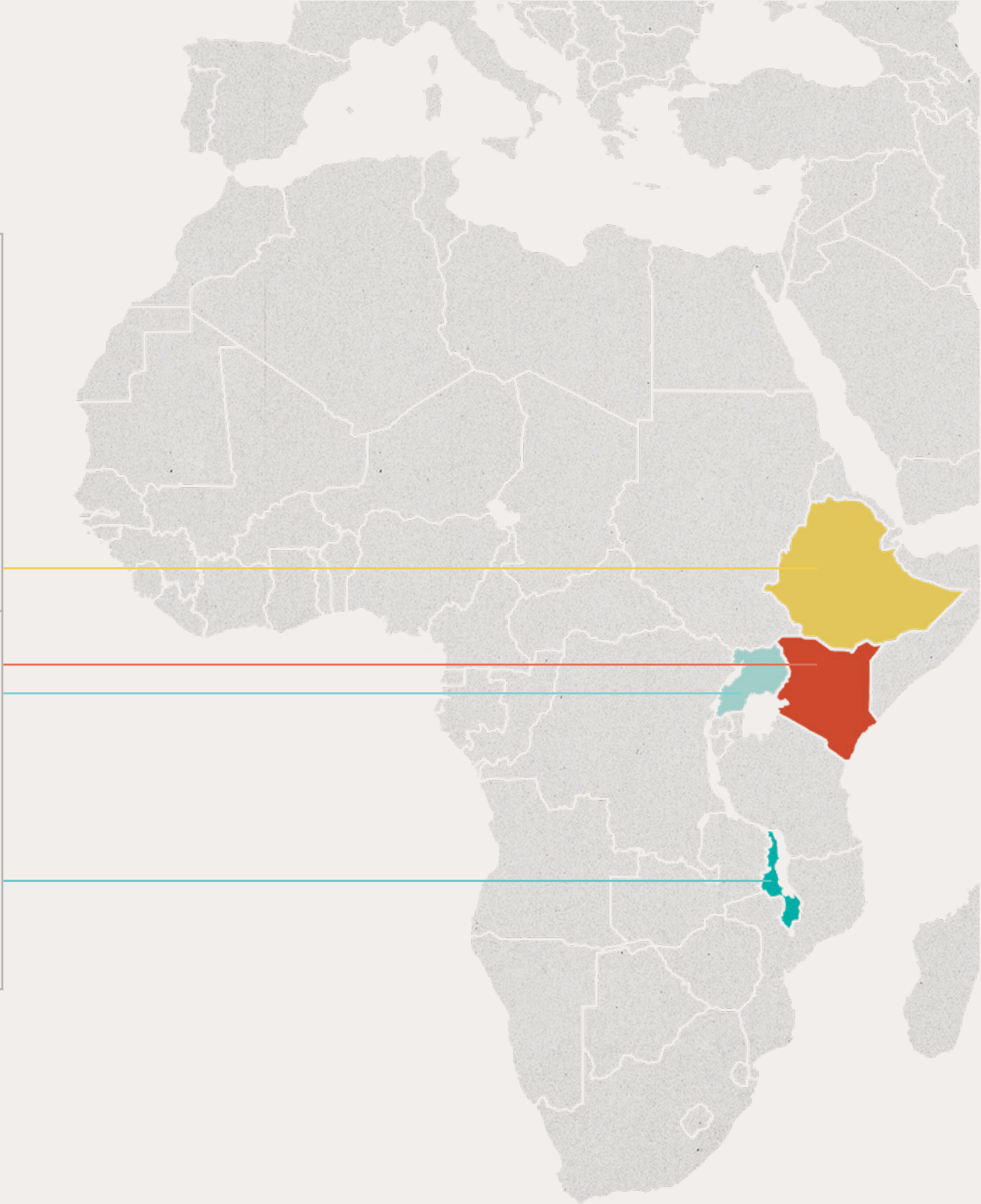
**11 million people served across all partner programs**



# Our 2024 Partners

In 2024, Blood:Water partnered with nine local organizations representing communities across Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda. We welcomed the start of a new partnership with Nyanam International, who join a cohort of like-minded organizations at various stages of their journey with Blood:Water – some just beginning, others midway, and some nearing graduation. At every stage, we celebrate our partners, their dedicated leaders, and the communities they work alongside.

<div>Jane Wathome</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Beacon of Hope <b>Kenya</b> Partner since 2021</p> </div>	<div>Ephy Imbali</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Community Asset Building and Development Action - <b>Kenya</b> Partner since 2022</p> </div>	<div>Jimmy Katuma</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Community Partnerships for Relief and Development - <b>Malawi</b> Partner since 2017</p> </div>
<div>Hermella Woldehana</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Drop of Water <b>Ethiopia</b> Partner since 2017</p> </div>	<div>Anastasia Juma</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Our Lady of Perpetual Support <b>Kenya</b> Partner since 2021</p> </div>	<div>Dan Nthara</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Njira Impact <b>Malawi</b> Partner since 2022</p> </div>
<div>Jackie Odhiambo</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Nyanam International <b>Kenya</b> Partner since 2024</p> </div>	<div>Geoffrey Kinaalwa</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Partners for Community Transformation - <b>Uganda</b> Partner since 2017</p> </div>	<div>George Kariuki</div>  <div> <p>Executive Director Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust <b>Kenya</b> Partner since 2022</p> </div>





# 2024 in Organizational Strengthening (OS)

IN 2024, THIS LOOKED LIKE:

**\$988,433**  
invested in  
partners’  
organizational  
health

**49** partner  
participants  
casting vision  
through 4 IDF  
workshops

Embedded in every Blood:Water partnership is a commitment and dedicated resources to strengthen our partners holistically. Every two years, partners engage in an evidence-based assessment workshop using the Institutional Development Framework (IDF) to identify and action their own organization’s health priorities. Through this process, each partner develops a plan casting vision for a two-year cycle of growth, establishing baselines across key impact areas such as overall organizational health, financial viability, program quality, and autonomy. Over the course of four cycles, partners receive tailored support to strengthen their organizations according to the priorities they define.



OS Consultant Achieng Masiga facilitating an IDF workshop.

Partners who  
completed  
**two years** of  
OS reported:

**+5% growth in  
org health &  
+5% growth in  
program quality**

Partners who  
completed  
**six years** of  
OS reported:

**+26% growth  
in org health &  
+47% growth in  
program quality**

“I am proud of the fact we as an organization are improving so much, through each workshop session, we could recognize areas of improvement. Our organization has been thriving since Blood:Water’s [Organizational Strengthening] intervention.” - IDF Workshop Participant



# OS Through the Leader Collective

Our commitment to strengthening local organizations does not stop at each individual partner, rather Blood:Water recognizes the power of safe, collective spaces, to foster growth, learning, and action among like-minded leaders. Out of this commitment, The Leader Collective at Blood:Water was born.

The Leader Collective is a community of practice that exists to convene, cultivate, and amplify African leadership driving health, development, and social change.

It is a vibrant community with a curated menu of in-person and virtual OS offerings which respond to shared learning interests. It also showcases partner expertise through publishing and co-creating of resources including technical briefs, webinars, and peer exchanges.



**LEADER COLLECTIVE**  
AT BLOOD:WATER



Dan Nhtara, Njira Impact

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024 INCLUDE:

**8 partner exchange visits**

**1 14-week masterclass reaching 30 leaders**

**2 webinars reaching 64 leaders**

**The Leader Collective online platform launch**

**7 leaders in 1:1 coaching**

**“Blood:Water is the only partner we work with that focuses on institutional strengthening and partner exchange.”**

- Jane Wathome, Beacon of Hope



Eric Aluru, OLPS & Mibu Colavola, Drop of Water





Beacon of Hope, Kenya

PARTNERS STRENGTHENING PARTNERS:

## 8 Partner Exchange Visits Conducted:

Exchange visits are in-person peer learning opportunities where partners can observe, experience, and collaborate around self-identified learning goals. These visits foster knowledge sharing, strengthen relationships, and promote best practices to collaborate around common development goals.

In 2024, Blood:Water supported eight exchange visits among seven current partners and one alumni partner. Partners used these visits to enhance program quality, improve reporting, and strengthen financial sustainability through shared insights on fundraising and community engagement strategies.

**“We just appreciate the opportunity granted to PaCT to participate in these learning visits which we believe has moved us miles towards achieving our organization goals.”**

- PaCT Exchange Visit Participant



## INNOVATION AND SHARED PURPOSE:

## Beacon of Hope's Exchange Visit to Lwala Community Alliance

Four staff members from Beacon of Hope (BOH) visited Lwala Community Alliance, a former Blood:Water partner and active peer learning collaborator. Lwala remains actively engaged, with Co-CEO, Julius Mbeya serving on Blood:Water's board.

The visit focused on Lwala's speciality clinics, community committees, and participatory development, laying the foundation for continued virtual mentorship between the two organizations. BOH was deeply inspired by Lwala's community-led approach, which fosters local ownership and sustainability in healthcare and youth programs. Their visit highlights strong collaboration with local hospitals and impactful work in maternity care, diagnostics, ERP systems, and WASH – efforts that are deeply rooted in the community and driving lasting change.

This exchange catalyzed deeper peer support between BOH and Lwala and a shared commitment to continued learning and collaboration

Following the visit, BOH shared:

**“The team looks forward to further collaboration and continuous learning through online conferences, ensuring the shared knowledge will have a ripple effect in their own work. This exchange not only strengthened professional connections but also created a sense of shared purpose, with both teams committed to improving community health outcomes for the long term.”**



Jackson Muigai, Beacon of Hope, Kenya



Elizabeth Akinyi, Lwala Community Alliance, Kenya



## STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP:

## 7 Leaders Participating in 1:1 Coaching

Leadership coaching creates intentional space for leaders to pause, reflect, and grow – strengthening both their impact and sense of purpose. In 2024, Blood:Water supported seven leaders across diverse roles – including finance, programs, and human resources – with consistent, 1:1 tailored coaching throughout the year.

Coaching provided a structured, supportive environment for personal and professional growth. The benefits extend beyond immediate performance improvements, goal setting, and confidence building. Leadership coaching also fosters long-term success, enhances organizational culture, and promotes the well-being of participants who positively impact their organizations.

Participants shared powerful reflections on their experience:

**“The most significant benefit was a substantial improvement in my leadership capabilities and the development of unwavering confidence in my role as a leader. Through targeted guidance and tailored exercises, I gained invaluable insights into effective leadership practices, including delegation, conflict resolution, and strategic decision-making. As a result, I witnessed a tangible improvement in team dynamics, productivity, and overall performance.**

**I now approach leadership responsibilities with a sense of purpose and conviction, and I am more adept at mobilizing and aligning teams towards shared objectives.”**

- Leadership Coaching Participant



Elfaz Kassa and Ethiopis Tadesse,  
Drop of Water, Ethiopia

## STRENGTHENING BRANDS AND COMMUNICATION:

## 14-Week Masterclass with Mighty Ally

Blood:Water hosted a 14-week masterclass on Brand Communication, led by Mighty Ally, to help partners become more “Findable and Fundable.” Born from partner requests, the course offered practical, purpose-driven strategies to amplify their brand, clarify their core ambitions, align their teams, and communicate their mission with power and precision.

For our community-driven partners, whose work to address health disparities is both deep and complex, communicating impact to external audiences can be challenging. This masterclass proved transformative, equipping partners to tell their stories with greater clarity, confidence, and purpose as well as a deeper sense of ownership over their narratives.

**“When describing what we do, I often felt lost trying to explain everything, which caused potential funders to lose interest. The elevator pitch session helped us draft and refine our message to clearly communicate who we are and what we do.”**

-Participating Partner

## LAUNCHING A SCALABLE FUTURE:

## The Leader Collective Online Platform

We officially launched The Leader Collective online platform envisioning a future where the power of community and collaboration are accessible across the African continent. Following a phased rollout with staff and advisory members, The Leader Collective is now opening access to all staff across our full network of current and alumni partners.

This year’s launch marks the beginning of a broader vision to engage the wider ecosystem of aligned organizations. Our goal is to make the platform publicly available as an open source community resource – offering members access to a growing archive of virtual strengthening support, while also inviting them to actively contribute to the collective. This advancement moves us closer to realizing The Leader Collective’s purpose to fuel learning and collaboration among local leaders across Africa.

VISIT ONLINE:

[bloodwater.org/leader-collective](https://bloodwater.org/leader-collective)



WE UNAPOLOGETICALLY LOOK TOWARDS:

**A future where  
local communities  
are the leaders  
of transformative  
health and resilience  
across Africa.**

Community Participants, Our Lady of Perpetual Support, Kenya



# 2024 in Participatory Grantmaking

Built on the foundation our partners are the experts of their work, communities, and sectors, Blood:Water crafts partnerships through mutual trust. We commit to partnerships first, building relationships that position our team as thought partners not just funders. Only once a partnership is already committed through a mutual vetting process do we start the process of participatory grantmaking.

Over the course of eight years, partners engage in up to four participatory, two-year grant cycles, rooted in sector best practices. Blood:Water serves as a thought partner on proposals and reports, while also providing tailored program support that aligns with and reinforces organizational strengthening initiatives.



Through our partners’ commitment to their communities, and our commitment to our partners, we celebrated the following achievements in 2024:

**9 partners supported with flexible funding for local health solutions**

**28,171 unique individuals served with solutions addressing health disparities**

**\$740,399 invested in partners’ programmatic work**

**1,965** individuals reached with HIV care, treatment, and support

**17,193** individuals reached with HIV prevention services

**11,496** individuals tested and counseled for HIV

**4,421** individuals reached with 13 water points

**3,809** individuals reached with 2,904 hygiene and sanitation facilities

**10,978** individuals trained in WASH



CELEBRATING LEADERS:

## 2024's Leader of the Year, Ephy Imbali

Ephy Imbali, Executive Director of CABDA, was named Blood:Water's Leader of the Year – an award recognizing exceptional leadership among our community of partners. Ephy leads with humility, grace, and a deep passion for her community. Ephy's dedication to growth, learning, and hard work has empowered her team to thrive, bringing meaningful, sustainable change in the communities they serve. Under her leadership, CABDA has developed a compelling mission and model, supported by a highly committed team devoted to community transformation and community-led impact.

**“I want to say that I’m receiving this award on behalf of my family that has stood with me in prayers, in encouraging me, in being there for me, and the staff who have contributed towards the work of CABDA... who have worked with passion, with a lot of commitment and grace without looking at their positions, without being interested in fame, without being interested in money, which is what has brought us to receive this award.”**

- Ephy Imbali





HONORING COMMUNITY EXPERTS:

## 2024's Community Hero of the Year, Joyce Maingi

The Community Hero of the Year Award empowers our partners to celebrate the community leaders that make their work possible and go above and beyond to drive lasting change. Nominated by Beacon of Hope (BOH), this year's award went to Joyce Maingi, Head of Nutrition at BOH Hospital. Beyond her hospital role, Joyce visits homes, trains families in organic farming, and distributes seeds for kitchen gardens. Her dedication to fighting food insecurity and malnutrition is transforming lives across Kajiado County, Kenya.

**“I’m truly honored to receive this award. I never imagined that such small acts could lead to this. This award is not mine alone: it belongs to every child, every mother, and every community member who has allowed me to serve them. I am deeply grateful for all the support.”**

- Joyce Maingi







Nyanam International Staff and Leadership, Kenya



Nyanam Widow Entrepreneur, Nyanam International, Kenya

WELCOMING A NEW PARTNER:

# Nyanam International

In 2024, we welcomed Nyanam International as a new partner. Nyanam is a restorative justice organization that empowers widows to lead community transformation through holistic programs in leadership, health, livelihoods, human rights, and youth education. Their work challenges oppressive cultural, economic, and social practices, restoring dignity and agency to widowed women.

Their first Blood:Water grant will strengthen climate resilience among widows in Kisumu and Siaya Counties by improving health, hygiene, water access, and food security.

**“I am thrilled by our partnership with Blood:Water for several reasons. First, that together we can center the well-being of widowed women, a group that bears the greatest burden of HIV among women in Africa. Two, that we can invest in healthy widow-led households, through installing household water harvesting systems that will also facilitate micro-irrigation to improve household vegetable production. And three, that our partnership is long-term and we can dream of the difference we want to make in eight years.”**

**-Jackie Oyambo**  
*Founder and Executive Director of NYANAM*



LONG-TERM COMMITMENT IN ACTION:

# Ushering in New Grant Cycles for CABDA and Njira Impact

In 2024, two partners—CABDA and Njira Impact—entered their third year of partnership, each launching a second grant cycle shaped by lessons learned and new opportunities.

**CABDA** served 8,682 individuals, 9 schools, and 736 households in their first cycle, implementing water and sanitation systems, training in nutrition and agriculture, and establishing community savings groups that pooled over 2.6 million KSH (over \$20,000 USD). CABDA is also evidencing the real value of community contributions leading local solutions, revealing community work and investments contributed 33% of project infrastructure. Their next grant will focus on improving health-related quality of life for children and families in Kakamega County, Kenya.

**Njira Impact** (formerly FOCCAD) reached 4,264 individuals in Malawi, focusing on Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) through interventions in gender, health, education, and economic empowerment. Their next phase aims to reduce HIV vulnerability for 950 orphans, vulnerable children, and AGYW in Nkhotakota and Dedza districts.



CABDA, Kenya



CABDA, Kenya

CABDA, Kenya



Njira Impact, Malawi



CABDA, Kenya



Njira Impact, Malawi



# 2024 in Thought Leadership

SHIFTING FUNDING PRACTICES  
FROM THE GROUND UP:

## Catalyzing Change Week 2024

Blood:Water presented at the annual Catalyzing Change Week (CCW2024), a virtual convening of the Catalyst 2030 global community. The session was entitled, [“Shifting Funding Practices From the Ground Up: Grassroot Action & Accountability.”](#) We co-led a discussion showcasing how local leaders and grassroots organizations are taking bold steps and breaking old patterns embedded in funding partnerships.

Also a part of the session was Jimmy Katuma, Executive Director of COPRED, who shared powerfully an experience of unhealthy power-dynamics and its impact on COPRED. This single conversation had such an impact on the Catalyst team they invited Blood:Water to lead a closed session meeting with the DC-based USAID team driving the review of their localization policy. COPRED was also present and delivered their message directly on the harmful practices of international non-governmental organizations who position themselves to receive localized funds in host countries at the expense of truly local partners.

In order to build a community of practice, and live fully into our mission, Blood:Water has worked hard to put ourselves and our partners in positions of thought leadership. Focusing on amplifying the work of local organizations, and contributing meaningfully to the narrative that local solutions are the key to end health disparities, in 2024 we have been a voice in the following spaces:

THE POWER OF INDIVIDUAL GIVING FOR  
TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY:

## African Philanthropy Forum Conference

Nadia Kist, our Director of Africa Partnerships (and incoming Executive Director) featured at the closing plenary session at the African Philanthropy Forum Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco. The session on [People Power](#) focused on the catalytic transformative impact of trust-based philanthropy on civic engagement. One of the unique additions Blood:Water brought to the conversation was the ability to mobilize significant philanthropic commitments through individual giving to power our trust-based partnership efforts for 20 years, which in itself is a demonstration of the power of collective action in the form of philanthropy. The conference theme echoed a call to action. It urged stakeholders to embrace a new era of philanthropy—one that was agile, collaborative, and focused on catalyzing funding to accelerate Africa’s transformation.



BUILDING LOCAL PHILANTHROPY & NETWORKS:

## East African Philanthropy Network (EAPN) Conference

Blood:Water attended the East African Philanthropy Network (EAPN) in Diani, Kenya represented by our Organizational Strengthening Coordinator, Agevi Michael. Agevi was joined by Elfaz Kassa, Program Director of Drop of Water. EAPN is a voluntary membership organization that brings together local charitable trusts and foundations in East Africa with the primary aim of promoting and growing a culture of giving. This year’s summit came at a decisive moment to evaluate our collective progress, refine our approaches, and define

the strategic direction that will advance the sector across the region.

The theme “Refining Philanthropic Strategies Across East Africa” centered on driving sector-wide advancements and strengthening collaborations to influence the future of philanthropy in the region. A key element of this strategy is leadership and the role it plays in organizations breaking away from traditional philanthropy. The discussion also highlighted how African organizations can evolve toward greater sustainability in modern philanthropy.

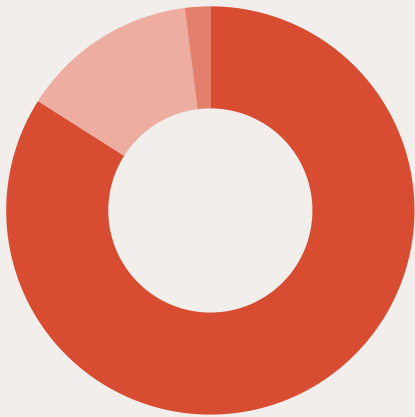


# Our 2024 Financials

As we celebrate 20 years, Blood:Water has raised more than \$47 million of private philanthropic funds to support our partners and their vital work in communities. We have worked hard to steadily increase our programmatic investments while maintaining reserves to safeguard our long-term commitment to our partners. The generosity of individuals and institutions fuels this work, and our financial stewardship ensures resources are available and utilized where the greatest impact can be made.

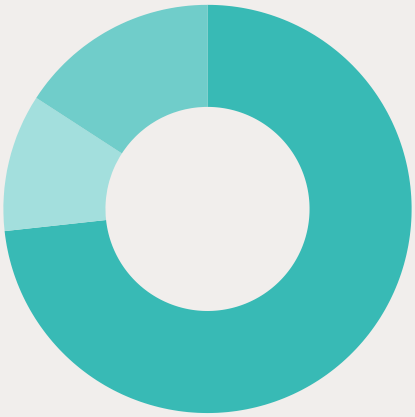
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES:

Net Assets <i>(Beginning of Year)</i>	\$1,262,641
Total Revenue & Support	\$2,044,175
Total Expenses	\$2,326,827
Net Assets <i>(End of Year)</i>	\$977,525



### INCOME SOURCE:

84%	Individual Contributions	\$1,714,985
14%	Institutional Funding	\$288,759
02%	Other Income	\$40,431
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>		<b>\$2,044,175</b>



### EXPENSE BREAKDOWN:

74%	Programs	\$1,728,832
11%	Management & General	\$255,951
15%	Fundraising	\$342,044
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,326,827</b>

# Impact Partners & Collaborators

Our work is not possible without a community of funders and collaborators around us. Our missional impact is stronger through the multiplication of resources, expertise, and influence. We cannot do this alone and we cannot delay our collective response. Join this growing list of powerhouse collaborators.



### OUR GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL DONORS





# Donor Spotlights

70.3 MILES OF SUPPORT:

## The Race for Clean Water

Sally and Karl Kuhn have been fundraising for Blood:Water since 2014 through their Race for Clean Water, turning triathlons into opportunities to support local health solutions. Sally even joined us on a vision trip to Zambia to see our partner’s impact firsthand.

Over the past decade, they’ve raised nearly \$55,000 – surpassing their goal time and again. In 2024, they completed a Half Ironman in North Carolina and raised over \$6,000 to support our partnership with PaCT in Uganda.

In 2019, we asked Sally, “Why Blood:Water?” Her response – and their continued commitment – still rings true today:

“Blood:Water has never been about making a quick fix, it was always with the mission of creating lasting change. It is truly about empowering communities – working side by side with African organizations,



partnering with them to create sustainable programs to educate, love, and serve for lasting change.”

[Contact us](#) to learn more about fundraising with your community.

LOVE, GENEROSITY, AND DIGNITY:

## Elevation Outreach

Through our ongoing partnership with Elevation Outreach, an impact partner, we had the privilege of hosting an event for LOVE Week 2024 — the church’s annual global initiative to serve communities through acts of love and generosity. 35 volunteers from Elevation Church’s eFam in Kenya and Uganda gathered at our Nairobi office to assemble 230 dignity kits for children orphaned or made vulnerable

by HIV/AIDS, served by our partner OLPS. These kits included essential hygiene and sanitary supplies for girls — and, for the first time, extended support to boys as well, responding to an often overlooked need.

Since 2021, our partnership with Elevation has invested \$100,000 in our partner leaders and the work they champion in their communities, not only through generous financial contributions but also with the gift of presence by volunteers who give of their time and heart. We are deeply grateful for this growing partnership and our shared vision to see local partners have the fullest expression of impact for the people they serve.

THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE MONTHLY DONORS:



The Fuel is a community of givers so passionate about locally-led solutions, they give every month to ensure a steady stream of support for our partners’ ongoing efforts to end health disparities in their communities. In 2024, Fuel members raised more than \$500,000, through monthly gifts ranging from \$1 to over \$5,000. No matter the amount, each gift reflects a decision to make our mission a part of their regular rhythm of giving.

Nick and Jackie Burgart have been Fuel members since 2010, today giving around \$60 a month. In total, their monthly gifts have added up to more than \$10,000.

Last year, they shared why they continue to include Blood:Water in their family’s monthly budget:

“Water is such a basic, human necessity, and it seems like it should already be a problem that is solved. Sadly, it isn’t. We feel that in supporting Blood:Water – who does it the right way by partnering with local partners who are on the ground every day – we are able to help in making that a reality.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUEL AT:  
[bloodwater.org/fuel](https://bloodwater.org/fuel)



# Leadership & Staff

- Jake Smith | Executive Director
- Nadia Kist | Director of Africa Partnerships | Current Co-Executive Director
- Aaron Sands | Co-Founder & Director of Operations
- Ann Kungu | Africa Partnerships Portfolio Manager | Current Director of Africa Partnerships
- Agevi Michael | Organizational Strengthening Coordinator
- Amanda Manzella | Impact & Learning Manager
- Caitlyn Roseborough Graham | Development Coordinator
- Emmaculate Musenya | Africa Partnerships Coordinator
- Lindsey May | Finance Manager

# Board of Directors

- Chris Hobday | Chair | Nashville, TN
- Ruth Doane | Secretary | Irvine, CA
- Liz Chamberlain | Treasurer | Washington, DC
- Achieng Masiga | Nairobi, Kenya | Term begins 2025
- Collin Brown | Nashville, TN | Term completed 2024
- Evelyn Omala | Brisbane, Australia
- Hannah Umphress | Denver, CO
- Jenifer Healy | Washington, D.C.
- Katherine Carpenter | Nashville, TN | Term completed 2024
- Tim Lupinacci | Birmingham, AL

# Founding Leadership

- Dan Haseltine | Co-Founder
- Jena Lee Nardella | Co-Founder
- Jars of Clay | Co-Founder
- Steven Garber | Advisor



Beacon of Hope, Kenya





## From Our Outgoing Executive Director

As I reflect on my time leading Blood:Water, I am filled with profound gratitude for the privilege of stewarding this organization alongside our incredible staff and partners across East and Southern Africa for the past six years.

Our 20th anniversary this year was particularly impactful for me — a milestone that speaks not just to longevity, but to the enduring power of our model. What began as a vision to support locally-led solutions has evolved into a powerful demonstration that proximity, partnership, and collective commitment can transform lives and communities.

What excites me most is the trajectory we've established: the launch of The Leader Collective platform, the position of leadership that Blood:Water now occupies in our sector, and our ambitious vision to impact 28 million people over the next two decades. These aren't just goals — they're inevitable outcomes of the foundation we've built together.

As I pass leadership to Nadia Kist, I do so with complete confidence. Her deep understanding of our partnerships, combined with her vision for scaling impact, positions Blood:Water for unprecedented growth. The future has never looked brighter.

As I step down from my role, I now join you in becoming an enthusiastic supporter of this amazing organization. Our support of Blood:Water has never been more important than it is today, and my final ask would be that you join me in generously supporting this incredible team and partners in the days and years ahead.

With gratitude and anticipation,

**Jake Smith**  
Co-Executive Director





**Healthy Partners. Healthy Communities.**

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