



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

 **BLOOD:WATER™**



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am honored to share with you Blood:Water's 2019 Annual Report which celebrates the amazing accomplishments of the communities and partners we served alongside last year in our fight against the HIV/AIDS and water crises.

As you will see, we have several big numbers to report on, and we are incredibly grateful that so many lives have been impacted. However, there is one number in particular that is especially important, and that's the number six. And while it is likely the smallest number that we will report in this document, it's by far the most vital in creating lasting change in communities across sub-Saharan Africa. This number represents the six local African organizations that we didn't merely work through in 2019, but rather worked alongside to strengthen, empower, and equip.

Our partners are the heroes.

In 2020, we are learning that flexibility is vital in addressing community health issues.. Serving our partners and their leadership will be our highest priority. Your continued investment in Blood:Water will ensure that our partners receive essential resources to meet critical needs in their communities, along with beneficial organizational strengthening opportunities to help build their capacity and continue to grow their impact.

The work is complex. There are no easy solutions or magic bullets. If there were, there wouldn't be a need for Blood:Water. So, until we are no longer needed, we will continue to roll up our sleeves and dig in for the long haul alongside the leaders on the front lines. And we will continue to invite you to do the same.



Gratefully,

Jake Smith, Executive Director



OUR APPROACH

We **EMPOWER** communities to lead the way by equipping and enabling local leaders to drive change in their own way, in their own communities.

We **BUILD** the capacity of local organizations to ensure they can continue to provide services to their communities far beyond the length of our partnership, influencing generations to come.

We **CONCENTRATE** our partnerships in areas where a high prevalence of HIV intersects with limited access to clean water and information about hygiene practices to make sure that the most vulnerable people are served.

OUR MISSION

Blood:Water is an equipping agency that partners with African grassroots organizations to address the HIV/AIDS and water crises. We do this by identifying **Africa's hidden heroes** and coming alongside their vision for change. Through technical, financial and organizational support, we expand the readiness and effectiveness of African civil society organizations and the communities they serve.

OUR VALUES

Community | Responsibility | Integrity | Dignity | Teachability

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PROJECT IMPACT

WHY WASH

325
million people living in sub-Saharan
Africa lack access to clean water



41% of the global burden

644
million people living in sub-Saharan
Africa lack adequate sanitation



36% of the global burden



15x

*Children in sub-Saharan Africa are
fifteen times more likely to die before
the age of five than children in higher
income countries.*



*Highly preventable waterborne illness is
a leading cause of death for children
under five years of age.*

2019 IMPACT



12,755
individuals reached
with clean water



6,376
hygiene & sanitation
facilities established



167
new/rehabilitated water
points (wells, filtration
systems, and more)



65,651
people provided with
water, sanitation, &
hygiene training



WASH IN REAL LIFE

“The school was exposed to risks of all infections related to poor hygiene. But since Blood:Water’s partner supported our school, the situation has changed for the better!”

— GIKONGORO SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER

With a population of more than 1500 students, hygiene was a serious issue for the Gikongoro school community in Rwanda. “The school population was exposed to risks of all infections related to poor hygiene,” shares the head teacher. Children were using the latrines without any opportunity to wash their hands afterward. “But since [Blood:Water’s partner] supported our school, the situation has changed for the better. The hand-washing station was constructed and connected to the water tank to ensure that children have access to clean water to wash their hands whenever they use the toilets.”

The head teacher went on to explain that, due to the large number of students attending school, the school leadership took on the responsibility of providing further access to water, sanitation, and hygiene for the students. “We therefore,” he continued, “constructed a second hand-washing station to ensure that even the secondary school is served. We also constructed a fence to protect the hand washing station. The project opened our eyes to the real need.”

WHY HIV

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

is home to 12% of the global population



but 70% of the global burden of HIV



70%



*of the world's poorest communities
are located in sub-Saharan Africa*



*Poverty is a major barrier to accessing
life-saving HIV treatment and care*

2019 IMPACT



1,056

people reached with
access to HIV care,
treatment, & support



16,138

people empowered
through HIV testing &
counseling



81,855

people equipped with
HIV prevention services



27,059

people reached with
interventions addressing
stigma & discrimination



*a representative photo

HIV IN REAL LIFE

Following the birth of Anna's* second child, her husband fell sick and went to the hospital for treatment. While there, he discovered he was HIV-positive but was too scared to disclose his status to Anna. Around the same time, Anna also learned she was HIV-positive. She too was afraid to disclose her status to her husband. As a result of stigma, the two of them kept their secrets to themselves and never sought treatment.

Months later, a community health worker visited their home to provide information on HIV prevention and care. Following the session, Anna's husband requested the entire family be tested for HIV. Anna, her husband, and their youngest child all tested positive, which led to unspoken tension within the household.

It wasn't until Anna attended training on HIV and WASH, learning about HIV transmission, prevention, treatment and support, that she accepted her HIV status. Anna shared with her husband the things she learned and they began to discuss what their HIV status meant. They chose to seek treatment, keeping their medication in the open rather than hidden away. They spoke to their children about the virus, and encouraged the entire family to openly discuss and support each other, regardless of an HIV diagnosis.

“Anna and her husband set an example for their children of how to care for themselves and those around them by treating the virus and maintaining adherence to their medication.”

As a family, they determined to maintain adherence to treatment. Anna also began acting as a mentor to neighbors who are also HIV positive. Anna and her husband set an example for their children of how to care for themselves and those around them by treating the virus and maintaining adherence to their medication. Not only is Anna having an impact on her three children – she is also influencing her entire community.

*name changed to protect privacy

WHY ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING (OS)?

WE IDENTIFY AFRICA'S HIDDEN HEROES AND COME ALONGSIDE **THEIR** VISION FOR CHANGE.

It is easy to prioritize health and sanitation efforts over building the capacities of local organizations. However, without a focus on strengthening internal capacity, organizations can lose their effectiveness and ability to affect community change over time. Blood:Water seeks to ensure that our local partners' incredible work continues far into the future, which we do by maintaining an emphasis on strengthening the organizational capacity of our partners on the ground.

In 2019, four Blood:Water partners – with 58 individual stakeholders participating – completed their most recent Institutional Development Framework assessment, a tool which enables them to finalize their strategic goals and plans, examine areas of weakness and build plans to improve, and utilize their Organizational Strengthening (OS) funds into 2020.

OS IN REAL LIFE

“The partners come up with the vision and create the ideas, and then Blood:Water comes [alongside] to support them.”

Dr. Agnes Moses, the Executive Director of Partners in Hope (one of Blood:Water's partners in Malawi) states, “Blood:Water has been a great partner. We've made strides in our outreach program, reaching more people than the number we had targeted. They support us in terms of capacity building – they are not prescribing priorities for the partner. The partners come up with the vision and create the ideas, and then Blood:Water comes [alongside] to support them.”

2019 IMPACT NUMBERS



9

partner stakeholders trained in organizational capacity building (training includes finances, monitoring & evaluation, and more)



7

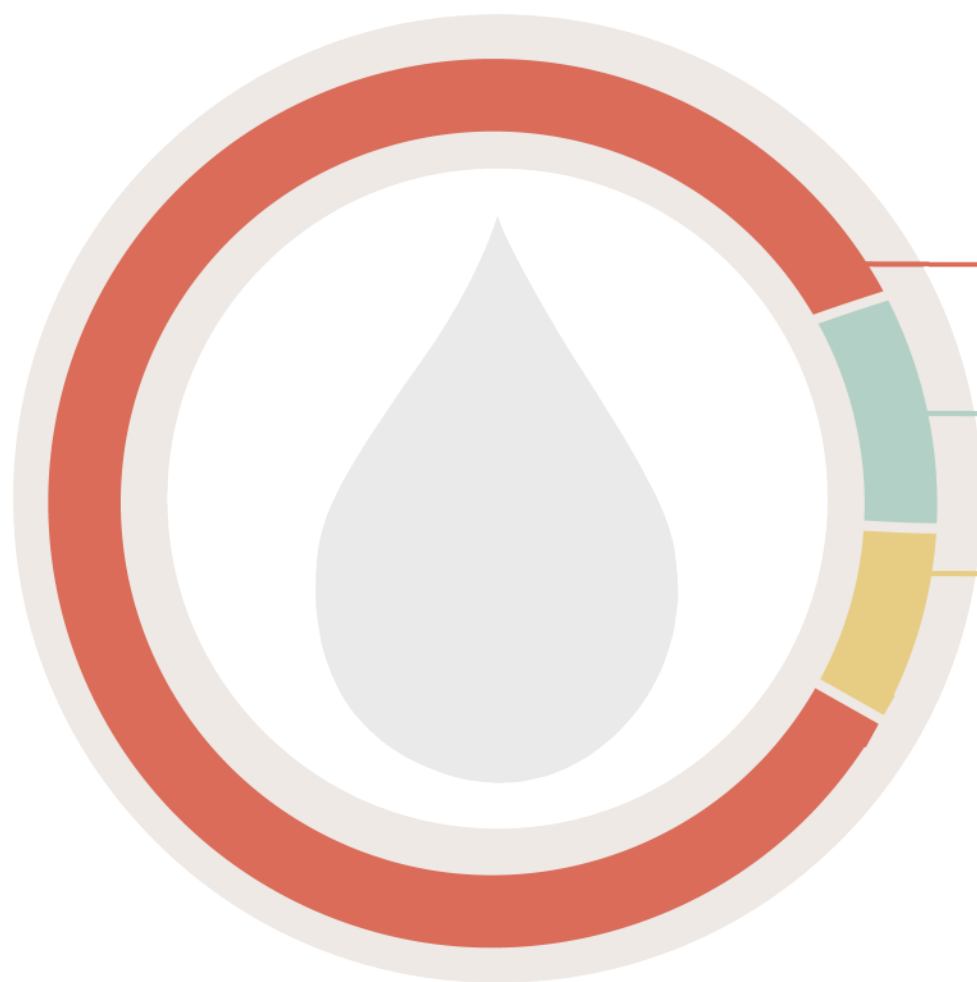
policies and plans developed to improve operational and program quality



FINANCIALS

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2019 FINANCIAL REPORT



79% Programs: \$1,355,584

12% Fundraising: \$215,831

9% Administration: \$151,869

**Total Contributions:
\$1,739,631.29**

These numbers are based on unaudited 2019 financial statements. Audited financial statements will be updated on our website upon completion. For more information on our finances, visit bloodwater.org/financials





EQUIP & EMPLOYER

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PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Lwala Community Alliance (LCA)

is a health and development agency founded by two Kenyan doctors. LCA is able to utilize their existing trust relationships in the community to allow for direct links to be made through clinically-based services that provide specialized care and support.

North Kamagambo has roughly **three times** the prevalence rate of HIV when compared to the national average in Kenya. Community members are at high risk for both HIV and health risks associated with inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene.

LCA focuses on **educating** community members about safe water and hygiene practices, and living with HIV.

LCA exists to **build the capacity** and advance the comprehensive well-being of people living in North Kamagambo, Kenya.



*a representative photo

STORY OF HOPE FROM LCA

Naomi* is a 59 year-old woman living in a village in North Kamagambo. She was working as a community health worker when she learned she was HIV-positive. Even as a community health worker, Naomi was not educated about HIV and became convinced she would soon die. After selling her valuables she retreated into her home and waited for death to come.

As time passed and Naomi experienced no immediate health changes, she went back to the hospital to see if her diagnosis was correct. Although she learned she was in fact HIV-positive, Naomi also learned that her diagnosis was not a death sentence. She spoke with fellow patients who were taking antiretroviral medication. They told her how taking their medication regularly kept them healthy and that they were able to live full lives even with their HIV-positive status.

It was around this time that LCA began training community health workers about HIV and the importance of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). As Naomi attended these training sessions, she gained more information about the disease, how it is spread, and the important roles that clean water, proper sanitation, and hygiene play in the lives of those living with HIV. This information provided the motivation Naomi needed to enroll herself in HIV care and begin antiretroviral therapy.

No longer fearing an imminent death, Naomi has reclaimed her role as a community health worker and chosen to be one of the first health workers in her village to openly disclose her HIV status. Over time, she has helped to change her community's perception of HIV while educating countless village members on proper hygiene and sanitation practices.

“May the good Lord bless your organization and LCA for all their support.”

Naomi is currently living a healthy and full life, thriving thanks to a combination of her antiretroviral medication and her WASH-compliant household. She says, “May the good Lord bless your organization and LCA for all their support.”

*Name changed to protect privacy

OUR 2019 PARTNERS

Community Partnership for Relief & Development

Supports improvement of personal and family hygiene, sanitation, early childhood development, and HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the Neno District of Malawi.

Drop of Water

Supporting sustainable clean water supply and proper sanitation facilities development in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia ACT

Supporting families in Suki, Ethiopia, that are infected and affected by HIV through medical, psychosocial, economic, and educational programs.

Lwala Community Alliance

Delivering improved health and well-being through multi-dimensional services for the HIV-affected community in North Kamagambo, Kenya.

Partners for Community Transformation

Improving access to safe, clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene coverage and practices in the Mityana and Mubende districts of Uganda.

MOUCECORE

Partnering with local communities to provide clean water, and promote improved sanitation and hygiene practices in the Nyamagabe District of southern Rwanda.

Partners in Hope

Providing holistic HIV/AIDS care through clinical and comprehensive community-based psychosocial services in Malawi.

“Our partners are the heroes”

- JAKE SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BOARD LEADERSHIP

RICH HOOPS, CHAIR

IMPACT HUB BOULDER

KEVIN CLARK

CLARK WEALTH ADVISORS OF RAYMOND JAMES

JENA LEE NARDELLA

PRAXIS

BRAD GIBSON

ASCEND ADVISORY GROUP

COLLIN BROWN

ARDENT HEALTH SERVICES

STEVEN GARBER (EMERITUS)

THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE

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