

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to have had amazing work go on in 2021. This year our work was a bit challenging due to the drought, but we can still attest for the great achievements as we worked hard together. On behalf of WAEV and the greater community we work with, I'm so humbled to thank all of you to have rendered us support in ensuring that we achieve the targeted goals of the year. WAEV believes that we can make the most powerful contribution to supporting social, environmental and economic changes by providing knowledge, skills and financial support to these self-organized women groups.

We indeed recognize the support from our donors for this year and for continued financial assistance towards our work in years to come. We hope we can continue in the same way in 2022 as we continue to pledge our commitment for the marginalized communities we serve.

I hereby do present to you all, WAEV's 2021 Annual Report.

With warm regards,



SAING'ORIE SANGAU

Founder & Executive Director, WAEV

ABOUT US

Women's Agri-Enviro Vision (WAEV) is a non-profit organization established in 2019 with operations currently focused in the Monduli district of Tanzania. We work side-by-side with women in rural Maasai communities, providing opportunities for individual and communal growth. Together, we envision a community where each woman has the opportunity to attain her full potential through economic independence, environmental justice, long-lasting health, and a right to equality.

MISSION

To improve the economic, social, and environmental health of marginalized communities in Tanzania by facilitating programs that engage women in implementing productive and enduring agricultural and entrepreneurial practices.

VISION

A poverty-free community where every woman can thrive and environmental resources are protected.





2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Thank you to everyone who enabled us to accomplish so much in 2021!

58

gardeners trained and 23 successful gardens cultivated



5,715

trees planted with a 70% survival rate



13 new entrepreneurs started businesses

15

water tanks distributed with 2,000L capacity



40 women attended literacy sessions for one year

6 students attained secondary schools thanks to women's group loans



160

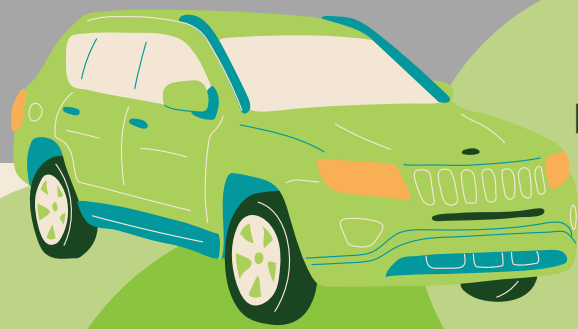
loans received with a 100% repayment rate

9 local schools enrolled in our Environmental Outreach Project

50

students received sanitary pad packages and training

We purchased our first WAEV vehicle!



PROGRAM UPDATES

YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2021, our programming focused on four main areas:

- Tree Planting
- Microfinance & Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Gardening
- Water & Sanitation

This year we were able to significantly grow our programs and extend our outreach to new beneficiaries. Compared to 2020, we doubled the number of trees planted and tripled the number of gardens cultivated. In addition to our main program operations, we also introduced literacy training as part of our entrepreneurship program, helped to educate school girls on menstrual health, and expanded our tree planting initiative to eight new local schools. In addition, we were able to fundraise enough money to purchase an AWD vehicle, which was a huge step towards growing our capacity. This vehicle has significantly helped us to access our beneficiaries, transport our staff and supplies, and ensure our staff are protected from the harsh environmental conditions of the area.

Despite many successes, we were also significantly affected by the long and unusual drought in the Arusha region. This drought affected our programming, lives of our beneficiaries and the community at large. Our goal for the year was to plant 6,000 trees, but we were only able to plant 5,715 due to the drought. Additionally, the trees' survival rate was expected to be more than 75 percent, but ended up being 70 percent. Even maintaining this rate was extremely difficult, but the drought resilience techniques we demonstrated to our beneficiaries helped significantly, and so did the aid of water tanks.



PROGRAM UPDATES

The drought also negatively impacted our beneficiaries' seasonal vegetable gardens and increased duties at home for many women. Although we had the highest number of gardens to date in 2021, this number dropped from 23 to only 3 gardens that persisted through the drought. Absenteeism during weekly meetings increased, as women had more chores due to the effects of the drought. Walking distances to get water increased (3 to 5 hours a day), and care for livestock increased. A number of animals died of hunger, and the ones that survived needed critical daily support. Women played a significant role in aiding these animals as they were the ones left at home during the drought while men searched for jobs.

Despite all of these struggles, our entrepreneurship program was very successful. We are very pleased with the impact of the groups loans in supporting families during the difficult times. As we surveyed families about the purpose of each loan signed out last year, we found that 60 percent of the loans were aimed to purchase food for families. As we did home visits towards the end of the year, every family we visited talked about the relief they had due to the available loans during the difficult times. We have witnessed the impact of microloans and we see the need to strengthen the capacity building resourcing of the entrepreneurship program.



TREE PLANTING

OVERVIEW

In the Monduli district and Arusha region, the environment is quickly degrading and natural resources are rapidly being exhausted. Trees are harvested for firewood and building materials, grasslands are overgrazed by large animal herds, and water resources are overused and polluted. These circumstances result in excessive soil erosion, soil compaction, and water runoff, and has led to the disappearance of springs, plant and animal species, while simultaneously increasing the distances (usually 3 to 4 hours a day) women must travel for firewood and water.

Climate change has intensified the unpredictability of the dry and wet seasons, leading to more frequent extreme climatic events such as droughts and intense rains. Ultimately, this decreases the success of the Maasai's current agricultural practices, which have been found to have little resilience. Currently, the community has few mechanisms to adapt to and endure such drastic climatic changes, leading to increased community instability.

Many individuals in Maasai communities are unaware of how their actions affect the land and the importance of environmental protection. WAEV has worked to implement our tree planting program with the aim of bringing awareness to these issues, making positive environmental changes and increasing this community's resilience.



TREE PLANTING

The Tree Planting Program has been one of the most successful activities of WAEV. However, its success has only occurred because of how it is intertwined with other programs offered by WAEV. The women in WAEV's groups are keenly motivated by the available loans, vegetable seeds, the possibility of securing a water tank, and the comradely support in weekly meetings with other like-minded women. To remain in a group, women must keep 65 percent of their trees alive, which is a huge challenge. However, a 20 percent survival rate gives a member the option to replace the trees to remain in a group.

“

“I had no single tree around my house. But you can see how many trees are now available that I'm even motivated to start a vegetable garden in between my trees that provide me with food especially during this hunger.”

- Sinyati Tayai (Group 3 member)

”

SUMMARY OF SUCCESS

During 2021, 5,715 trees were planted by our 6 women's groups around their homesteads and by local school children around 5 local primary schools' campuses. To date, WAEV has planted over 10,620 trees with a 70 percent survival rate.

60 percent of trees that have been planted are now 5 to 10 meters tall, which is large enough to provide shade for families, act as wind breakers, and improve soil fertility. We have also observed that many women have begun to plant vegetables in between trees, which is a sustainable agroforestry practice. These gardens have shown to improve soil fertility in these areas, while also increasing the women's awareness of how trees mitigate other environmental issues. As a result of these trees, surface run-off is also slowly decreasing, as more ground cover has grown on the barren soils that the trees are planted on.





TREE PLANTING

ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH AT SCHOOLS

In 2021, WAEV conducted environmental outreach sessions to 8 local primary schools and 1 local secondary school in the Monduli District. During the outreach sessions, we survey the need for tree planting at the schools' campuses, meet with school committees, encourage the formation of Environmental clubs, formulate strategies to guarantee successful plantings, and plant trees. This outreach enabled us to mobilize the formation of 3 environmental clubs with a total of 150 students and 3 teachers, and plant 2,500 trees at 5 primary schools. Our goal for 2022 is to extend this outreach initiative to more local schools in Monduli, plant 8,000 trees, form more environmental clubs, develop an environmental curriculum, and establish vegetable gardens and tree nurseries at schools when possible.

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

As a result of the small forests we are creating, we anticipate increased precipitation, reduced soil degradation, and improved levels of soil fertility which will lead to increased food security. The introduction of these trees will also lead to the establishment of income generating activities as women will be able to harvest timber, firewood, and fruits, which they can sell or keep for individual consumption. As a result, women will no longer destroy forests or spend up to eight hours a week collecting firewood. This "extra" time will enable women to partake in other activities, such as small businesses.

We also expect to see social impacts, as women's self esteem and confidence will improve. Additionally, they will gain heightened respect from their husbands and the community, greater ability to envision other improvements and changes needed, and gain the willingness to commit and work towards their goals.

“We truly didn't think that these women could make it this far in their programs, but we have now learned and believed that everything is possible with commitment, and everyone is therefore capable of everything.”

**- Ngilorit Kereku (Husband of Sinyati's Mollé,
Group 5 Chairperson)**

MICROFINANCE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OVERVIEW

Our Microfinance & Entrepreneurship Program is an all-woman program that successfully supports women in achieving financial independence. Through this program, women are given the knowledge and means to operate sustainable businesses, which helps them to become empowered as community leaders. As they become economically independent, domestic violence is reduced, their self esteem is increased, and they gain respect in both their households and the community. When a woman's financial circumstances improve, she is not only better able to feed, clothe, and educate her family, but she is also able to save for emergencies. Families are healthier and happier, and children attend school. Through this program, we can see the cycle of poverty slowly break .

WOMEN'S LITERACY INITIATIVE

Most of our beneficiaries are illiterate, making it difficult during business training. In order to ease financial literacy and record keeping training, we decided to include a voluntary 40 minutes basic literacy session in between weekly meetings. These sessions are designed to teach simple accounting and the Swahili language which help the businesswomen to interact with customers in local markets. As a result of these sessions, women have stated that they now recognize the currencies and are able to properly count.

During 2021, 40 women participated in the literacy sessions, positively impacting their interactions with the customers in the markets and improving their financial literacy skills.





MICROFINANCE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SUMMARY OF SUCESS

As a result of our efforts, we have noticed an increase in financial literacy of our beneficiaries, including improvements in their accounting and bookkeeping skills. In addition, there has been an increase in households' yearly savings, as women tend to save money during the loan repayment process. As a result of their savings and their access to loans, women now have a better ability to cope with emergencies at home. Many women have testified that they are now able to buy food during difficult times as well as rescue the lives of family members when they get sick.

Additionally, children's school attendance has also improved, as women have reported an increased ability to support their children's education thanks to loans from their groups and/or because of profits from their businesses. During this year, 6 children were reported to be able to attend secondary schools through either loans or profit generated from businesses.

Overall, women in our groups have testified that they have achieved higher status in their communities thanks to our Microfinance and Entrepreneurship Program

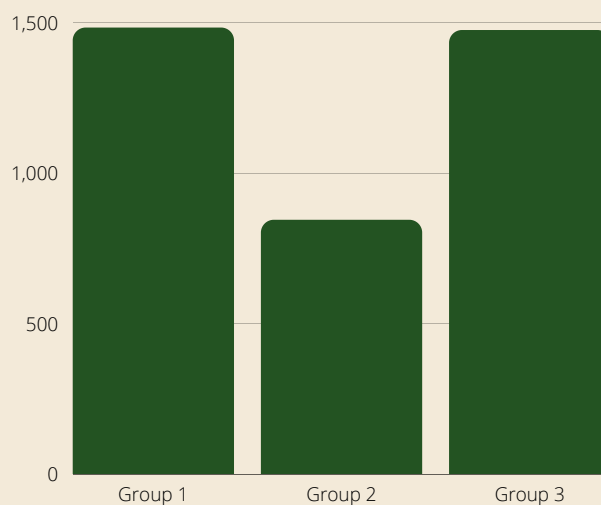


I and my mother in-law each took a loan and we decided to establish a business together since we live in the same boma. As our business grows bigger, we will each have a separate business for better profit. As you can see this book, we tend to record everything for our business in order to keep proper records just like you taught us. The training has really motivated me to start a business even though I have never thought of doing any business.

- Nawasa Lalaito (Group 1 member)



MONEY SAVED BY 3 GROUPS FROM 2019-2021 (IN USD)



The savings from three women's groups between 2019 - 2021 has totalled US\$3499.



MICROFINANCE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



I have improved my counting skills and easily identify the currencies. I feel like we're sometimes leaving behind our change every time we buy things in the market or shops, and this is because it had been difficult to tell how much is remained. This is a common situation to most of us when we go to the markets, especially if you're in hurry.

- Nailetoi Sainyeye (Group 4 member)





SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

OVERVIEW

Our Sustainable Gardening Program works as a voluntary program for our beneficiaries and its goal is to improve nutritional intake and food security. Prior to WAEV, the community was unaware of the importance of vegetables and vegetable and fruit consumption was nearly nonexistent. WAEV has been educating these communities on the nutritional and economical benefits of vegetables and inspiring them to eat healthy diets. We provide our beneficiaries with seeds and gardening training, and regularly monitor their gardens. In addition, we link them with marketing opportunities outside of their villages so that they can also sell surplus for profit. As a result of these efforts, we have noticed an increase in vegetable intake and an increased awareness of the importance of vegetables compared to previous years.

SUMMARY OF SUCCESS

Despite the challenges brought on by the intense drought, this program had some noticeable achievements. 58 women participated in the vegetable gardening training, and 23 women had successful gardens prior to the drought. Additionally, eight women produced so many vegetables that they were able to sell surplus local markets and to two private schools in Monduli, helping to increase nutritional intake of members of their community.

As a result of the program, women's status has begun to increase. As they provide for their families with food and income, women gain greater respect from their husbands. One woman (Sinyati Mollel) bought a goat, and another (Suzana Seuri) bought 10 chickens thanks to the profits from their vegetable sales. In Maasai culture, men tend to value animals for prestige. As these women work hard and occasionally buy animals, men respect and value them more. It is common to hear men discussing how women are changing their lives thanks to WAEV. The husband of Sinyati Mollel (Group 5 Chairperson) stated, "I must cooperate with my wife now because she is changing the family's life. She had been growing and selling vegetables that she even bought a very nice goat for the family.

“My children's diets are always served with vegetable throughout the year since I joined the gardening group - Suzana Seuri (Group 5 member).”



SUSTAINABLE GARDENING



“My wife had never engaged in any business before but, since she joined the group and planted vegetables, she has been able to sell them and finally opened a small kiosk at home from the generated profit. She played a big role in feeding the family during the severe drought. As men, I think we were wrong believing that women shouldn’t engage in business.

**-Nakudel Moris
(Husband of Nashipai’d,
Group 6 member)**





WATER & SANITATION

OVERVIEW

Our Water and Sanitation Program was initially established to motivate out Tree Planting Program and alleviate water challenges for local families. Currently, WAEV has worked to provide water tanks with a 2,000L capacity to families that seem to demonstrate commitment in the tree planting program. These tanks have been serving as a way to collect and hold clean water that can be drunk as well as be used for activities such as cooking, washing dishes, and doing laundry. The gray water that remains after completing these activities is then typically utilized to water trees during the dry season. The usage of grey water is one of the drought resilient techniques we have taught women to increase the likelihood of tree survival.

This year, we expanded this program to also focus on improving menstrual health among local girls and women. To do so, we collaborated with another non-profit called the TATU Project who helped us to educate individuals on relevant issues and provide re-usable sanitary pads to girls at Lendikinya primary school.

SUMMARY OF SUCCESS

In 2021, we provided 15 more tanks with a capacity of 2,000L to 15 new families. The impact of these tanks has been significant, especially during the severe droughts this year. Practically, 1 tank can serve more than 30 people, improving the lives of men, women and children during challenging times.

In collaboration with the TATU Project, we provided menstrual health educational sessions to 70 students, and provided 50 students with sanitary pads packages. Prior to this training, we conducted a need assessment and we found out that 50 percent of students were using pieces of clothes as pads during their periods. Through this assessment, we also noticed that periods are still considered taboo in the community. WAEV and the TATU Project also worked together to educate WAEV's women's groups to raise awareness of these issues.

“
**In most cases, girls’
 absenteeism is observed
 during their period. Even if
 they attend classes, you
 can still tell how
 uncomfortable they are,
 that they sometimes can’t
 participate in sports.**

**-Madam Majenga,
 Local life skills teacher**

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PLANS FOR 2022

1

Expanding our Tree Planting Program to more local schools and communities. In 2022, we expect to plant 8,000 trees.



Intensifying capacity building training with our female entrepreneurs. In 2022, we hope to have helped a total of 100 women start and grow businesses.

2

3

Increasing organizational capacity, improving staff capacity building, and further developing our partnerships and network



Introducing a pilot literacy project for local primary students in collaboration with Pastoral Women's Council and Grassroots Nest For Innovation and Change.

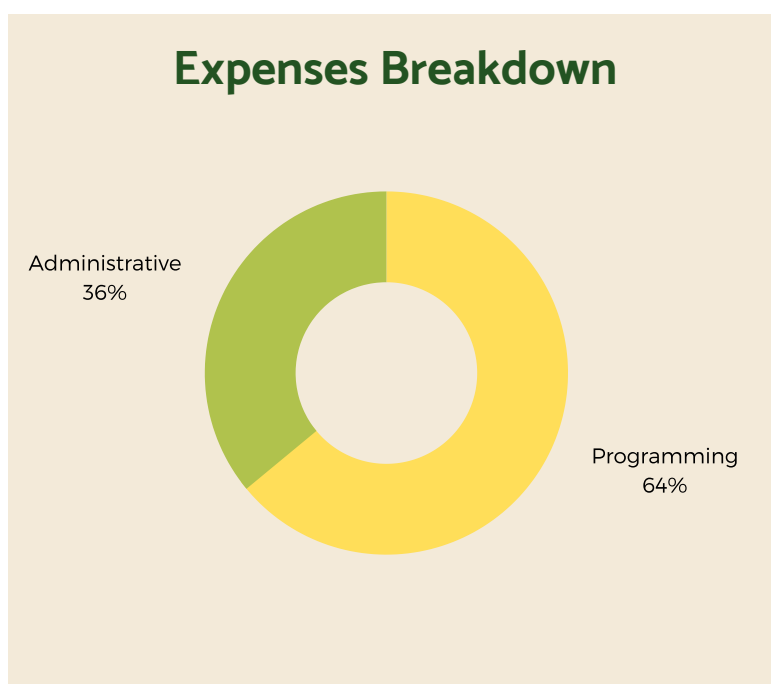
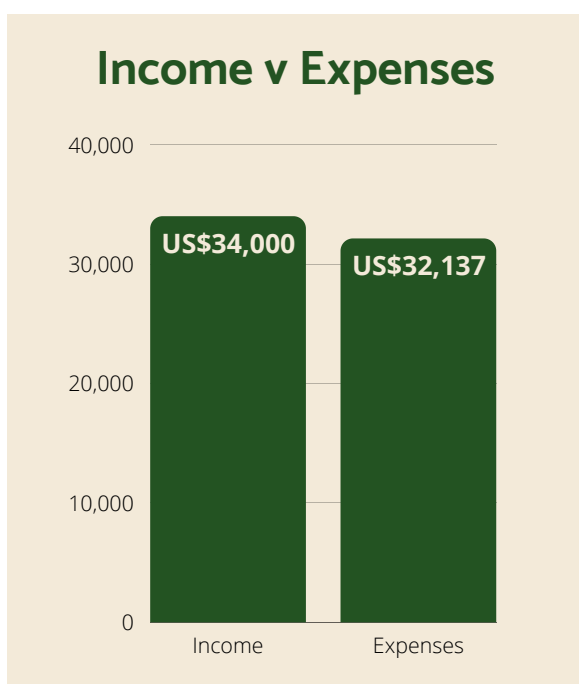
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FINANCIAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

In 2021, our fundraising efforts proved to be very successful. We acquired \$34,000 in funds, thanks to generous contributions from our donors and partners. Our marketing and fundraising strategies focused on expanding our network to reach new supporters and utilizing media platforms to orchestrate and promote campaigns. Most of the funds were collected via our sponsor and partner, Greenward Inc., a U.S. based non-profit organization to whom we would like to express our sincerest gratitude. We value and appreciate those who made our fundraising work possible and feel confident in our ability to grow these initiatives in the upcoming year.



2022 Budget:

Operation Costs

\$20,468

Programming Costs:

Tree Planting Program

\$11,680

Entrepreneurship & Microfinance Program

\$9,680

Sustainable Gardening Program

\$6,260

Water & Sanitation Program

\$6,000

Literacy project

\$7,000

\$61,088



**Thank you to all our
donors, supporters and
partners!**