



CREATS

CENTRE FOR RURAL EMPOWERMENT AND AGRICULTURAL
TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



www.thecreats.org



1561-229-7519



info@thecreats.org



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Donors and Stakeholders,

It has been another year of transforming communities, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Our organization continues to grow, thanks to generous supporters like you.

As we expand our outreach, we constantly ask ourselves what is next and how best we can help communities unlock their full potential. Through these conversations, we identify challenges and opportunities that require urgent action.

Our work is incredibly important in fostering food security, building resilience to climate change, and improving overall well-being. To achieve these goals, we strive to establish partnerships both within and outside our communities. We earnestly believe in the power of collective action because we have witnessed the remarkable achievements that come from working together. To this end, we have established new partnerships and remain open to further collaboration.

The world faces multifaceted challenges, including conflicts, food insecurity, youth unemployment, and climate change. Therefore, supporting vulnerable communities by building their capacities to address their own challenges is imperative and urgent.

Our organization is already at the forefront of empowering communities. However, such efforts require more financial commitments, personnel, and advanced technologies. We will continue to count on your help to make a significant impact in the communities we serve.

We thank you dearly for walking with us on this journey and look forward to our continued engagement as we transform one life at a time. Thank you for being our partners.

Sincerely,

Willis Ochieng

What is Creats International?

The Center for Rural Empowerment and Agricultural Transformation for Sustainability (Creats International), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the U.S. that has operated in Kenya as a community-based organization since 2015.

Creats International was founded to bridge the gap between research, extension agents, and farmers and make scientific research palatable and valuable to end users. Creats aims to foster social change and unleash the economic potential of the community.

Vision

To create a world where all individuals and communities are empowered with the resources and opportunities to thrive and achieve their full potential, leaving no one behind.

Mission

Empowering marginalized communities to thrive by dismantling social, cultural, and economic barriers through capacity building and access to critical resources.

Board of Directors

1. David Dunsmuir – Board Chair
2. Linda Maina – Board Treasurer
3. Alla Kemelmakher – Board Member
4. Uchenna Nwizugbe – Board Member
5. David Trapp – Board Member



CREATS
CENTRE FOR RURAL EMPOWERMENT AND AGRICULTURAL
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What we do:
Agricultural capacity building; Small enterprise development; Financial linkages; Market linkages, Environmental conservation and women empowerment

Vision
To create sustainable, inclusive, and thriving communities through education and linkages to critical resources.

Mission
Transforming communities from surviving to thriving.

Core Values

- ✓ Transparency and Accountability
- ✓ Teamwork and Partnership
- ✓ Professionalism
- ✓ Compassion
- ✓ Social Justice.

Contact us:
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What does Creats International do?

Capacity Development

We strengthen capacities of local communities on different farming technologies to improve agricultural productivity, bolster food security, and enhance community resilience to climate change.



Provision of Agricultural Inputs

We provide farmers with reliable, high-quality, and certified agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. We hope to break the resource barriers that hold smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth farmers from thriving.



Financial & Market Linkages

We train farmers on financial literacy and link them to financial institutions like banks, Microfinance Institutions (MFI) and other Non-Governmental Organizations with financial resources.



Small Enterprise Development Support

We train farmers on record keeping, business planning, and financial management to promote small enterprise success.

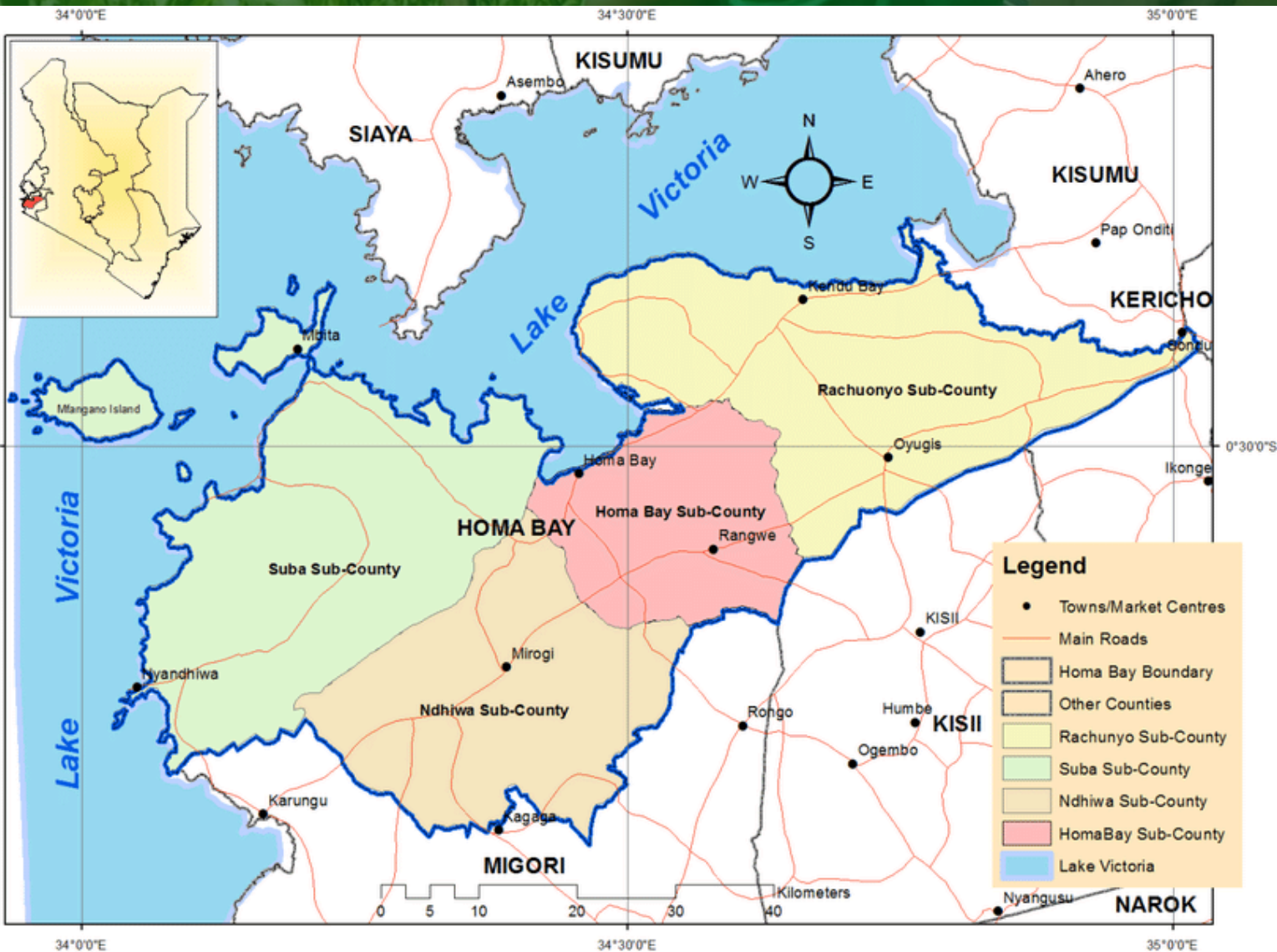


Environmental Conservation & Policy Advocacy

We promote Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and other environmentally conscious interventions like biochar, vermicomposting, and tree planting among others.



WHERE WE WORK



OUR IMPACTS



4 Farmer Field Days Organized

New knowledge, skills, and technologies disseminated.

1 Agriculture Expo Organized

More than 300 farmers attended the grassroots Agri expo and interacted with manufacturers of agricultural inputs, financial institutions, and marketing organizations.

8,000 Farmers Served

Farmers (70 percent women and youth) gained new knowledge, skills and resources to enhance agribusiness.

“

We are grateful for Creats International for organizing such an impactful event. This is something we have never seen nor experienced before. The Agri Expo was a great learning opportunity. We look forward to more of such events.

James Okoth, Farmer



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



Farm Mechanization

Two farm machines, a garden seeder and a cultivator were introduced as pilot test to transform agriculture by moving away from the back-breaking manual labor.

Strengthening Women Groups

We have established twenty (20) new Self Help Groups (SHG) across our areas of intervention. Such groups are integral to farmers learning from each other and improving farming.



Linking Youths to Financial Resources

Through our partnerships with Kenya Commercial Bank, we have trained 200 youths on financial literacy and connected to the mainstream financial institution. Little by little the youth, especially in the Boda boda sector are saving money and accessing loan resources to kickstart both farm and non-farm enterprises.

Small Enterprise Development Support

We have helped 1200 women to kickstart small enterprises like soap making, kitchen gardens, and the production and selling of indigenous vegetables. Additionally, we link women self help groups to resources like markets and banks to access loan. M



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



10,000 Trees Planted

Drought-tolerant crops promoted: sorghum, millet, and Cassava



Communities trained: on Indigenous vegetable production



Farmers trained on Agroecology: vermicomposting and organic composting



Garden Tower Technology (GTT): promoted in the community for kitchen gardens. Community now access fresh vegetables



IMPROVING WATER AND SANITATION



1 Borehole Drilled

600 can access clean water

While improving water access and sanitation has not been our focus in the past, the effects of climate change necessitated the shift. As a community-centric organization, we foreground needs assessment to foster evidence-based decision-making. We listen to communities to identify their needs. As such, we address the bottlenecks and remove the hurdles holding communities back from thriving. It is against this backdrop that we drilled a borehole in Orembe village, Sino Kagola in Homa Bay County to address the perennial water challenge.

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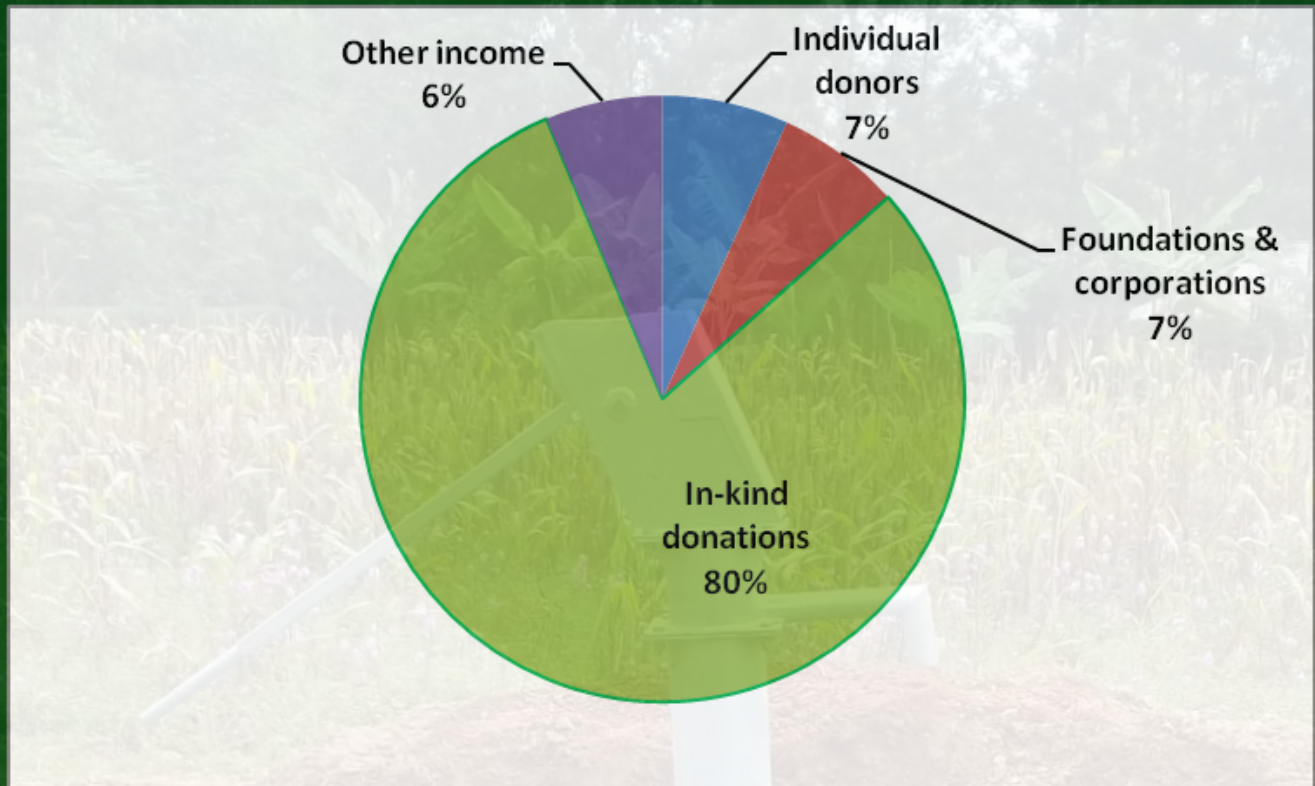
We are very happy with this water project. We walked more than 12 km to get clean water. The project will serve the community, including nearby schools. Furthermore, the borehole will make it easier for us to access clean water even after dark. I see this project transforming our community in tremendous ways and we grateful to Creats International for the support.

Wilfrida Ataro, Resident Orembe

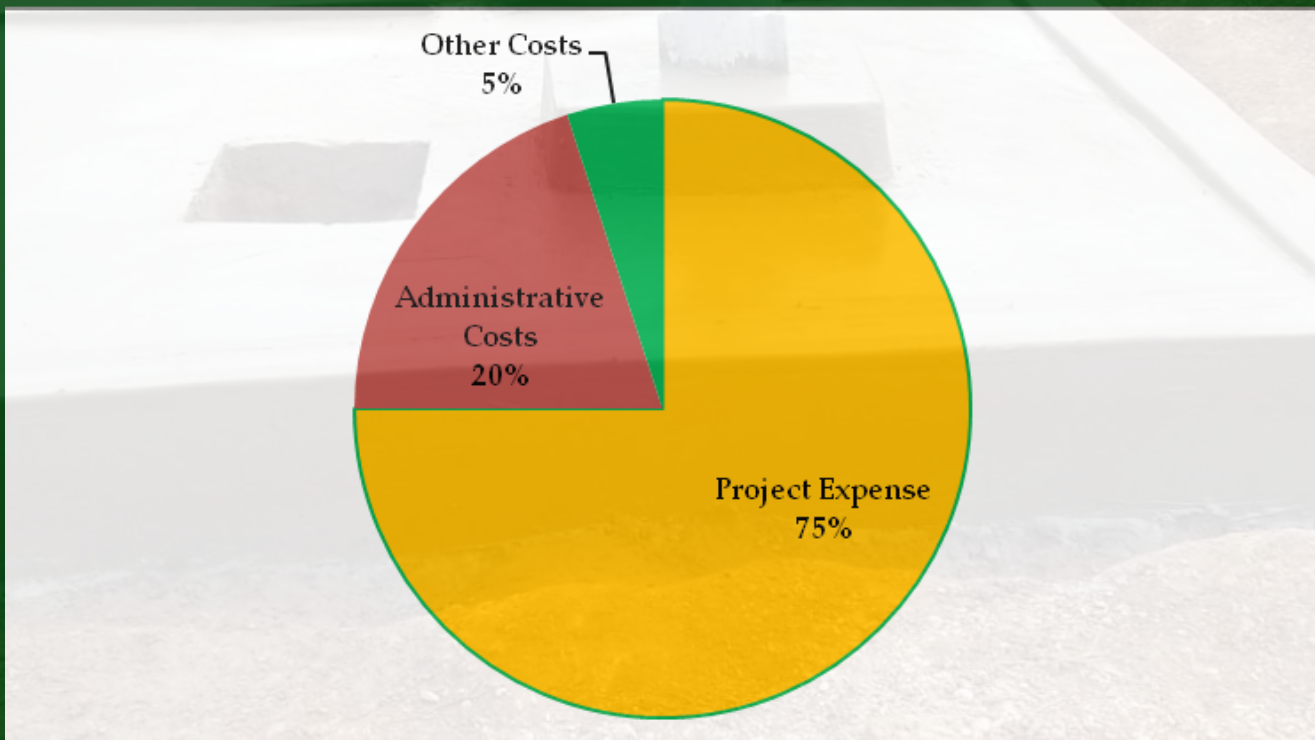


FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

2023 Actual Revenue: \$150,116.59



2023 Actual Expenses: \$150,116.59



A complete audited financial statement will be available at our office or at www.thecreats.org

PARTNERSHIPS

8

Partnerships established



11

DONORS

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT.
WE COULDN'T
HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT YOU.**

1. **Jason King**
2. **George Migiro**
3. **The Home Depot Foundation**
4. **Elinor Gollay**
5. **Wayne Marta**
6. **Collins Nyawara**
7. **Gilbert Ouma**
8. **Mark Mongare**
9. **Elizabeth Ramirezz**
10. **Beverly Campbell**
11. **Itai Magodoro**
12. **Margret Fitzgerald**
13. **Pauliine Agutu**
14. **Keisha Rashon**
15. **Meghan Cox**
16. **Julia Woodard**
17. **Daniella Martinez**
18. **Josephine Ngayua**
19. **William Cox**
20. **Alvaro Ramirez**

For more information on ways to give, visit www.thecreates.org/donate or contact Willis Ochieng at 561.229.7519 or by emailing willis.ochieng@thecreates.org

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Some of the plans we have in the pipeline in 2024 and beyond include:

- **Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture**

We are committed to promoting regenerative agriculture to boost food security and foster community resilience to climate change. Some of the agroecological practices we envision promoting include vermicomposting, biochar, and agroforestry.

- **Enhancing Smallholder Farm Mechanization**

We hope to promote the shift from manual labor to smallholder farm machinery to improve efficiency and attract more young people in agriculture in line with Africa Agenda 2063.

- **Training Women Extension Paraprofessionals**

Access to agricultural extension services remains an impediment to smallholder farmers in Africa, especially women and youth. We hope to augment inadequate government extension services by training additional women extension paraprofessionals to cascade culturally appropriate and gender specific intervention.

- **Leveraging Digital Technologies**

To enhance extension outreach and improve farmer efficiencies from farm to fork, we aim to train communities on better digital technologies. and increase the penetration of such resources into marginalized communities leaving no one behind.

- **Partnerships for Sustainable Development**

Achieving sustainable development goals calls for concerted efforts of all stakeholders, donors, and partners to mobilize resources and tackle the pressing challenges of our generation. Hence, we are keen on expanding our partnerships both at the grassroots and international level to amplify our impact and transform communities from surviving to thriving.

CREATS INTERNATIONAL

501(c)(3) Non-Profit EIN: 93-1487337



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