



**VIBRANT  
VILLAGE**  
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



2014 has been a year of deeper connections and learning. We strengthened our engagement with villages and partners across the globe, developed strong cooperation in remote regions and continued to learn and replicate approaches that improve the quality of life for communities, families and individuals.

We are now investing in 38 villages in 22 countries around the world. Our program expenditures grew by 51% in 2014, totaling \$3.3 million.

Over the course of this year, I have been inspired by stories from our partners that demonstrate how small changes can result in significant improvements in the wellbeing of individuals and their families. In Tanzania, Africa Bridge introduced us to a family who drank milk for the first time, as a result of their participation in a cow cooperative. In Nicaragua, Green Empowerment's water project has empowered women as leaders in their village. These are just a few stories captured in this year's report.

In 2014, we invested more to build and support the monitoring and evaluation of our programs. We set out to better understand how programs impact individuals and families in each community. In Ghana, we initiated a baseline assessment to measure the health and hygiene in households throughout Fielmuo. This survey will help us assess the outcome of our train-the-trainer program focused on hygiene and sanitation. SurfAid, our partner in Indonesia, is a leader in a highly participatory monitoring and evaluation process and will assess the impact of their maternal health program. Our hope is that this information-gathering and data-analysis will reveal what components of our programs are the most critical for success and where we need to adapt and improve programming to better meet the needs of communities.

We are excited to further our work around monitoring and evaluation in 2015 and to continue learning what approaches, both big and small, lead to significant changes in the lives of people. Our program directors will be on the road more in 2015 to see the projects first hand and to continue strengthening our partnerships around the world. We look forward to the reports from these field visits and sharing our findings with you.

I want to thank you for your continued interest in our work and invite you to stay connected to us through social media, our website and newsletter. We will continue to share stories that inspire us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken deLaski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken deLaski

## OUR APPROACH

Vibrant Village Foundation is committed to transformational change at the village level. We believe in a bottom-up approach that engages community leadership and where projects are designed and implemented with the support of the community.

Our approach is intended to be scalable and integrated. In some villages we may start with projects that respond to basic needs, such as water and sanitation, and then work to address more upstream issues, like education or economic development. We invest in villages long-term, with the understanding that lasting change takes time.

We are excited to share how our investments are changing lives and improving communities.

COVER: Children hiking to school in the Andes mountains. *Courtesy of DESEA Peru.*

BELOW: Students tend to their school's learning garden. *Courtesy of Vibrant Village Ecuador.*



## WATER

*Securing access to safe, abundant water*



We worked in 8 villages to bring clean water to nearly 23,000 individuals. These projects have helped improve household sanitation and hygiene, reduced water-borne illness and freed up time for women and girls who no longer have to fetch water over long distances.

Photo: Children celebrate the installation of a new clean water source at their school in Laos.  
*Courtesy of Jhai Coffee House.*

## EL BÁLSAMO

Just a year ago, the 60 families in El Bálsamo, Nicaragua, relied on a single public well and five private wells for all their household water needs. The wells were unsanitary and insufficient to meet the community's basic needs.

Thanks to the partnership with Portland's Green Empowerment and Nicaragua nonprofit, Asofenix, each family now has water piped directly to their home. Families contributed labor and resources to build a solar-powered pump, water tower, laundry and washing area and metered tap-stand for EVERY home in the village.

In addition to the water project, families worked to install fuel-efficient stoves, improve their kitchen gardens and plant trees to protect the precious watershed in this arid region.

“This project has been a great benefit to the community, especially women,” shared Eusebia Campos, a local leader. “Before, we were the ones hauling water and firewood, and now we don't have to. Now we have patio gardens to grow onions, tomatoes and peppers. We eat better and save money. Hygiene and health has improved for our families. As a woman in this community, I feel very blessed by this project.”

Photo: Marcela Reyes with water in her home for the first time. *Courtesy of Green Empowerment.*



## AGRICULTURE

*Helping small-scale farmers increase their yields and improve their economic stability*



In 11 villages, we supported an estimated 9,850 small-scale farmers who produce crops to feed their families and to sell at local markets. Farmers received training in improved horticultural techniques, resurrected traditional farming methods, gained skills in business and markets and participated in new farm cooperatives. With additional micro-loans, farm supplies and seeds, these farmers increased their yields, gained greater economic stability and improved the food security for their families.

Photo: A woman harvests from the market garden in Senegal. *Courtesy of Andando Foundation.*

## AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Agricultural cooperatives provide an opportunity for small-holder farmers to share and pool resources, and give them an assured market for their commodities. Through cooperatives, farmers gain greater bargaining power and can yield higher prices for their products. Cooperatives also facilitate farmers' ability to engage in post-harvest processing, which allows members to benefit from higher value-added markets.

In Kenya, farmers in Esabalu county had previous experience in commercial agriculture, growing green beans for a Kenyan exporter in the 1990s. When the company went bankrupt, farmers in Esabalu were left without a route to market. In 2014, the community of Esabalu worked closely with Vibrant Village Foundation to establish the Ebusakami Farmers' Cooperative and to revive the commercial agriculture in the area.

The cooperative has 25 members who each contributed \$7 to register with the government. After diligent market research, members unanimously selected soybeans as the crop for their first season (August – December). 85% of cooperative members planted soybeans for a cumulative total of 8 acres. Farmers have just brought their first harvest to the market in January 2015.



Photo: Farmers visit farm plots to learn new planting techniques.  
*Courtesy of Vibrant Village Foundation Kenya.*

## FOOD SECURITY

*Providing nutritional meals for vulnerable children and the elderly*

A young girl in a yellow and orange dress is smiling broadly while holding a red bucket with the WFP logo. She is standing in front of a building with green shutters. Other children are visible in the background, some sitting on the ground. The scene is outdoors, likely at a school breakfast program in rural Senegal.

We provided warm, healthy meals for children and seniors in schools and community centers in 4 villages. With support from parents and residents to prepare breakfast and daily meals, we helped provide a strong nutritional foundation for nearly 1850 children. We also trained care-givers to improve nutrition and feeding practices for orphans and vulnerable children.

Photo: Children receive their daily breakfast at school in rural Senegal. *Courtesy of Andando Foundation.*

## THE IMPACT OF MILK

Catherine is a 70-year-old woman from the village of Kalalo in Tanzania. She cares for five orphaned grandchildren that range in age from 5 to 13. Catherine is a member of a livestock co-op organized through our partner, Africa Bridge, and has received one cow as part of her membership. On July 27th, 2014, the family's cow gave birth to a healthy male calf.

With the birth of the calf, Catherine's cow produces fourteen liters of milk per day: four liters are reserved for the calf, two liters for household consumption, and eight liters are sold.

Drinking milk is new for the family. In her 70 years, Catherine was never able to purchase milk. The children, until now, had watched neighbors enjoy milk but had never tasted it for themselves. Now, before the children go to school, each gets a cup of milk and cooked bananas, improving their overall nutrition.

13-year-old Mariam will soon start secondary school thanks to the income from milk sales, over three dollars per day. Catherine dreams that the income from milk, combined with increased crop yields, will enable her to build a nice house where she and the children can live comfortably.



Photo: Catherine's family with their new baby cow in Tanzania.  
*Courtesy of Africa Bridge.*

## EDUCATION

*Improving education for children*



We worked with 7 local partners to help ensure that all children have access to quality education in their community. We provided full financial support to a school in Haiti, serving 650 children in Port-au-Prince. We helped build and renovate new classrooms, provided professional development for teachers and distributed uniforms and books to students in 7 other countries.

Photo: Syrian children in the al-Azraq Refugee Camp participate in activities in child-friendly spaces. *Courtesy of Mercy Corps.*



## IMPROVING LITERACY & NUMERACY

Since June 2014, Dinah has been working with Vibrant Village as a volunteer tutor at the local primary school in Esabalu, Kenya. Dinah is one of seven Enhanced Learning Volunteers (ELVs) working with 35 students who are struggling academically.

The ELVs work with their students on core skills including literacy, numeracy and English. Each volunteer received a mobile classroom kit containing all the resources they need to conduct classes including story-books, whiteboards, flash cards and games.

The initial six-month pilot showed that students made dramatic increases in their literacy and numeracy skills. Improvement in these areas will help students understand more across a range of school subjects.

The volunteers were also able to reach students with undiagnosed special educational needs. The additional support helped improve student attendance, prevented dropouts and revealed other issues, such as unstable home environments, hunger and abuse.

The program is a win-win for the students who are improving expeditiously in school and to the volunteers who are gaining valuable work experience. Dinah now feels positive about her future. "I am now building the foundations for my career." In December, Dinah left the program with new computer skills, teaching experience and a clear plan for her career.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

*Supporting programs and infrastructure for healthier communities*



We partnered in 6 villages on a variety of projects to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. We helped train community health workers in remote regions, supported reforestation projects and co-invested with families to install more energy-efficient cook stoves. Access to new knowledge and infrastructure has helped save lives and improve health, particularly for women and young children.

Photo: A child demonstrates proper teeth brushing. *Courtesy of DESEA Peru.*

## EMPOWERING LOCAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

In Papua New Guinea's Yopno-Uruwa-Som Conservation Area, we work in four villages, home to approximately 3,000 people, settled amidst lowland rainforest, beautiful coastal reef and sea grass. The area is extremely remote, accessible only via foot or boat. Residents here have only recently acquired radios.

The remote and dramatic landscape hinders access to basic health care services which causes many community members to suffer from preventable illnesses. To address these needs, we partner with the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP). This past fall, TKCP delivered a health training for 62 community health workers and village birth attendants in the area. These trained individuals are at the forefront of providing maternal, newborn and child healthcare in their villages. The workshop enhanced participants' knowledge and skills, and offered a hands-on experience for delivering quality care and managing high-risk situations.

“The workshop has taught me something new such as removing the umbilical cord around the baby's neck, treating joint pains and family planning,” said Jack Miyaning, a male village birth attendant.



Photo: Breakout groups discuss topics during the recent health training. *Courtesy of Tree Kangaroo Conservation Project.*

## WHAT IS A WATSAN COMMITTEE?

Water and Sanitation Committees (WATSAN Committees) are the governing bodies overseeing the management, maintenance and sustainability of a community's water assets, from open wells to boreholes to gravity-fed systems. Most of the 30 WATSAN committees we support require that nearly half of the members are women, which helps to ensure gender equity and promotes shared responsibility and control of the water resources.

In Ghana, our team set up a simple water pump and pipes parts store in the local village of Fielmuo. WATSAN Committees can now easily find replacement parts and purchase them in a centralized location without having to travel long distances. Parts are sold at near wholesale price, which makes maintaining the pumps more feasible for the community groups.

Photo: A local WATSAN committee receives training. *Courtesy of Vibrant Village Foundation Ghana.*





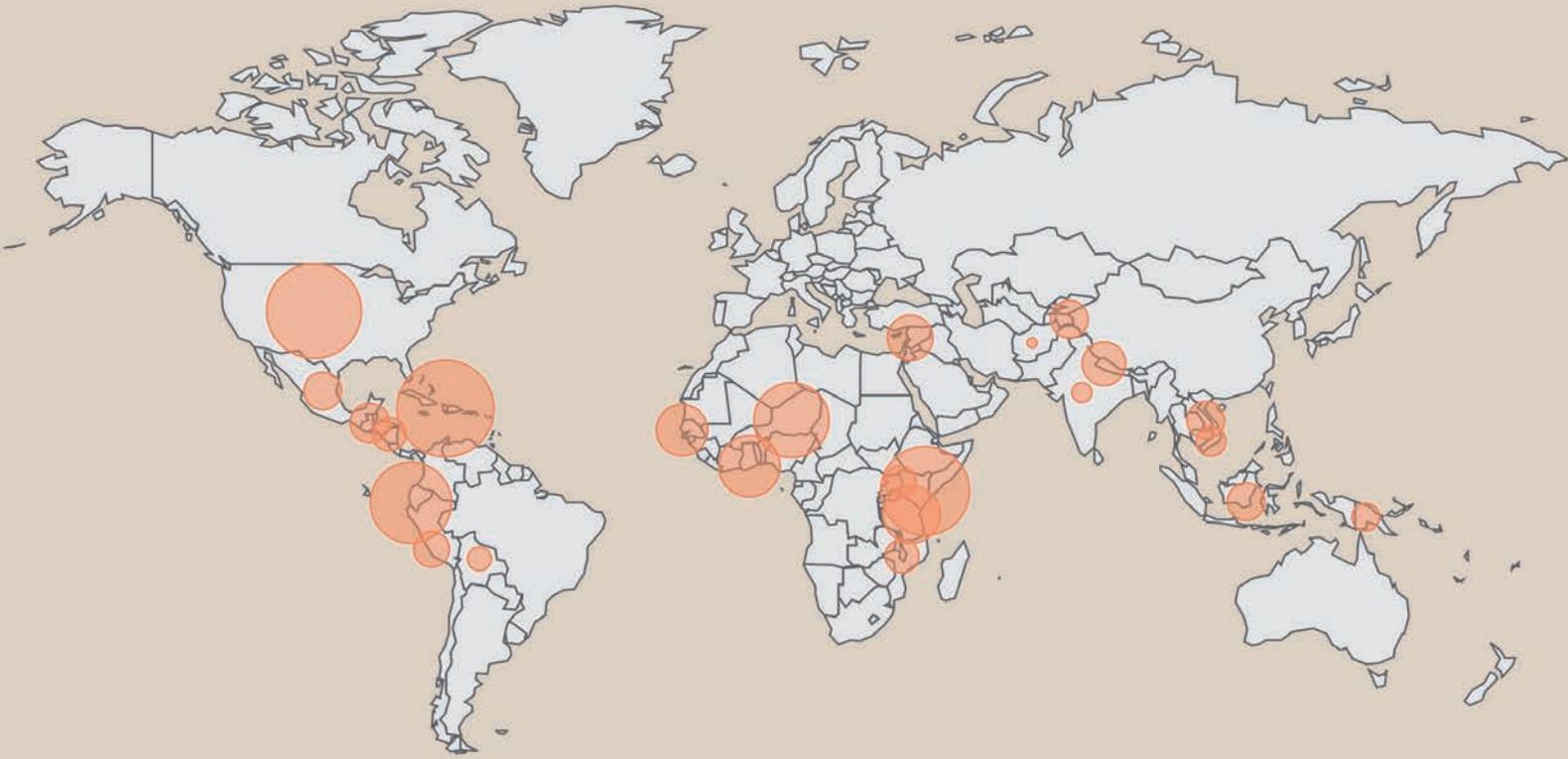
## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Ibu Luseria Salelelu Baja is 65 years old and the head of a women's group in her small church in Eruparaboat, Indonesia, in the remote Mentawai Islands. In 2010, a tsunami took the villagers' houses and livelihoods, their family and friends. Ibu (or *madame*) Luseria is among the survivors who has moved to higher ground, into the forest, and is slowly rebuilding her life.

Luseria gladly uses her influence and status in the community to mobilize the women in her village. She leads by example. Despite her advanced years, she is in the field and digging trenches for water pipes alongside her neighbors. Together they are working to build the system that will supply their community with clean water.

"Water is so important for our lives and health," says Ibu Luseria. "Since the tsunami we have been using rainwater for drinking and the runoff from the road for washing dishes and ourselves. Of course I want to contribute with the rest of the community to get clean water into Eruparaboat. Together with SurfAid, it is possible!"

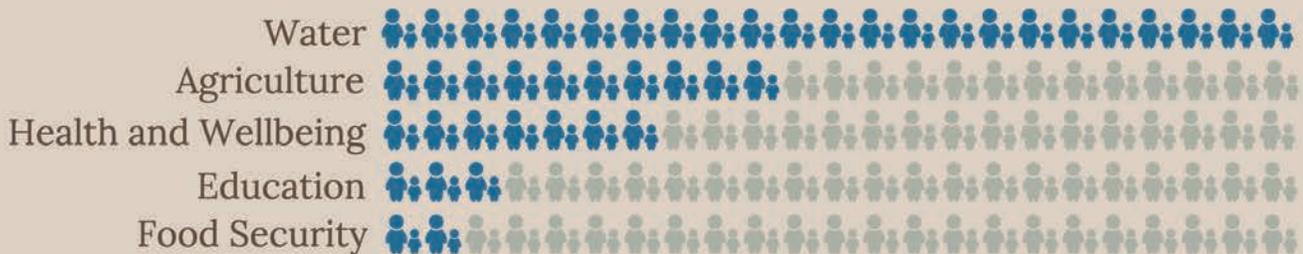
Photo: Ibu Luseria takes a break from digging trenches. Courtesy of SurfAid.



Map: Annual program investment by country



 = 1,000 people impacted



# Vibrant Village Foundation Program Expenses *since inception*

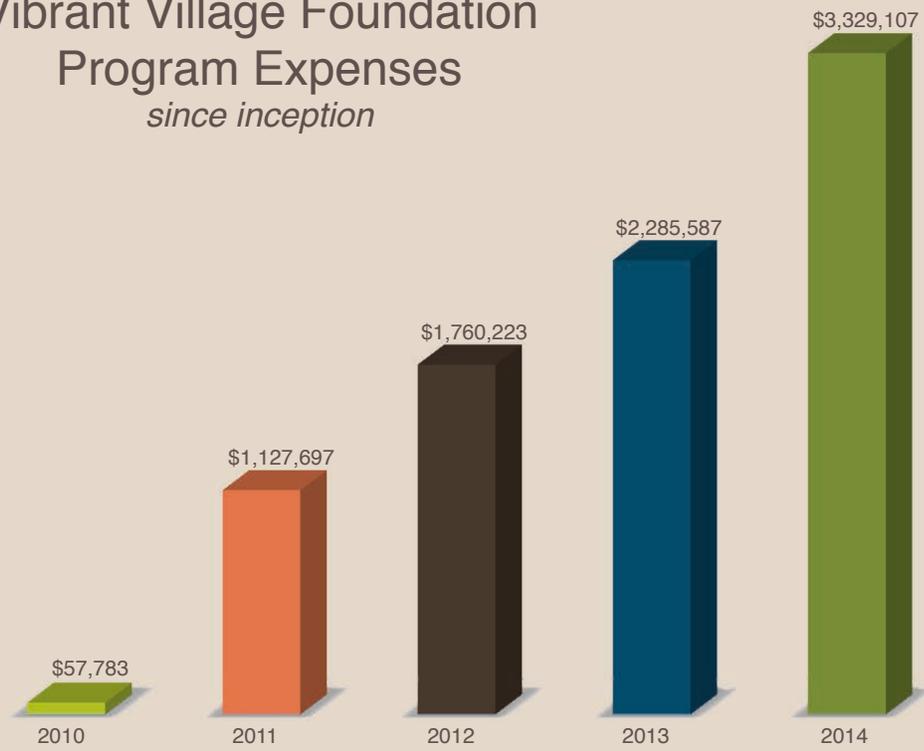


Photo: Children wash their hands at school in Laos. *Courtesy of Jhai Coffee House.*

# 2014 VILLAGES AND PARTNERS

**BOLIVIA**, *Montero*  
Etta Projects

**CAMEROON**,  
*Bangem Council*  
Community Action for  
Development

**ECUADOR**,  
*Pimampiro*  
Vibrant Village Foundation

**GUATEMALA**, *Western  
Highlands*  
Mercy Corps

**GHANA**, *Fielmuo*  
Vibrant Village Foundation

**HAITI**, *Port-au-Prince,  
Paulette, Phaeton and  
Délogner*  
Mercy and Sharing  
Oxfam America  
Sonje Ayiti  
FINCA International

**INDIA**, *Divshi and Gadchincla*  
Women's Empowerment  
International Foundation

**INDONESIA**, *Jakarta  
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Mercy Corps  
SurfAid

**KENYA**, *Esabalu,  
Matepes Villages, and  
Loitokitok*  
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Development Organization

**LAOS**, *Paksong*  
Jhai Coffee House

**MALAWI**, *Lilongwe District  
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Pump Aid

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SECARD Nepal

**NICARAGUA**,  
*El Bálsamo*  
Green Empowerment

**NIGER**, *Couloubade and  
Ebageye*  
Amman Imman

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**,  
*Yopno-Uruwa-Som Region*  
Tree Kangaroo Conservation  
Program

**PERU**, *Microcuenca,  
Ccarampa, Chayña*  
DESEA Peru and Green  
Empowerment

**SENEGAL**, *Kaolack District  
and Guinguineo District*  
Andando Foundation  
CREATE!

**SYRIA**, *Al-Azraq Refugee  
Camp (Jordan)*  
Mercy Corps

**TANZANIA**, *Lufingo Ward*  
Africa Bridge

**TAJIKISTAN**  
SPOON Foundation

**UGANDA**, *Wakiso District  
and Mukono District*  
Eco-Agric  
EACO

**VIETNAM**, *Ha Trung District*  
VNHELP

# PORTLAND PARTNERS

Bravo Youth Orchestras  
Caldera  
Children's Book Bank  
Ethos Music Center  
Friends of the Children  
Growing Gardens  
Hacienda  
I Have a Dream Oregon  
Kairos PDX  
Kúkátónón  
Latino Network  
Mt. Scott Learning Center  
My Voice Music  
NW Dance Project  
Open Meadow

Oregon Children's Theater  
PHAME  
PlayWrite, Inc.  
Portland YouthBuilders  
Reading Results  
Rosemary Anderson High School  
Self Enhancement, Inc.  
SMART  
Social Venture Partners  
The Shadow Project  
Urban Gleaners  
Verde  
Willamette RiverKeeper  
Write Around Portland

Photo: Students perform at a school concert. *Courtesy of BRAVO Youth Orchestras.*



## 2014 BOARD

Ken deLaski, Founder and President  
Sarah Goracke  
Kathleen deLaski  
Sang Ahn



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Kevin Grubb  
Director, International Programs

Laura Koch  
Program Manager

Shelby Ness  
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Sue Brown - Ecuador Education Director  
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Solomon Suurkare - M&E Officer

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Rebecca Okinda - Partnership Facilitator  
Michael Ndalila Chenge - M&E Officer  
Truphosa Alando - Office Manager

Founded in 2010, the Vibrant Village Foundation is a private foundation that manages direct programs and works with partners in vulnerable communities worldwide. The foundation works in 22 countries in Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia and the United States. To date, Vibrant Village Foundation has invested more than \$5 million in programs.

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