Annual Review 2012

Highly Commended in The Charity Awards 2013, in the category of International Aid and Development.
“Empowering children and their communities to achieve sustainable, fulfilling and independent lives.”

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In 2003, when Ace Africa started life in Bungoma amid the collective chaos of state mourning for the Vice President, power supply failures, apocalyptic storms, slaughtered cattle, unusable offices and volleys of tear gas, the town was anything but dull. Exasperating, crazy, exciting, hopeful, frustrating, surreal, scary… Yes. On the verge of community and resource collapse as a consequence of a devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic that affected one in three households… Certainly. Dull? No.

A decade has passed since those difficult beginnings and today Ace Africa is working harder than ever to achieve even more than we could have dreamed possible ten years ago.

Each and every day, we are humbled by the commitment of the individual volunteers, children and adults alike, with whom Ace Africa works in order to ensure the long term freedom of communities from dependency upon ‘charity’. Hand-outs are neither what they want nor need. Rather, their goal and commitment is to independence and the opportunity to lead sustainable and fulfilling lives outside the cycle of dependency. Bungoma illustrates the success of our approach and represents the tangible, measurable improvements that can be delivered to thousands of lives every year.

Operationally, following approval in May 2012 from Comic Relief (for a Common Ground Initiative Grant to support institutional assessment and strengthening), an independent external review was carried out in respect of governance, leadership and integrated workings of the Ace group of charities (including Ace Africa UK, Ace Africa Tanzania and Ace Africa Kenya), fundraising, networking and marketing, and broader activities including increased advocacy and partnership within the global development sector.

Following on from this, and with considerable support from existing donors, partners, Trustees and the staff team, Ace Africa has developed a Strategic Plan for the next three years.

As a not-for-profit organization, we rely entirely upon the generosity of supporters like you: people whose donations and funding will help us permanently and irrevocably end the cycle of dependency – community by community, child by child. Thank you in advance for investing in a better future for people who want nothing more than to realize their potential and that of their communities. You will be making a difference which, by definition, is sure to last.

Ace Africa has come a long way in 10 years… But the real challenge – turning today’s realities into tomorrow’s enduring, resilient, confident reality – is just beginning.
Total Population 40,513,000
20% of population are living below international poverty line of US$1.25 per day

Primary school net enrolment ratio 83%

13% of children are orphaned, 6% of whom are orphaned due to HIV and AIDS (1,200,000)

16% of children under five are underweight

Child labour 26%

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Total Population 44,928,923
68% of population are living below international poverty line of US$1.25 per day

Primary school net enrolment ratio 97%

13% of children are orphaned, 5.7% of whom are orphaned due to HIV and AIDS (1,300,000)

5.6% of adults aged between 15-49 years are HIV positive

16% of children under five are underweight

Child labour 21%

Data sources include UNICEF (Kenya & Tanzania), National Council for Population and Development 2011 (Kenya), 2012 Population and Housing Census (Tanzania) and WHO.
Ace Africa has a very different modus operandi from other NGOs and charities working in East Africa. Despite many challenges and the need to adapt and change our plans, we know that our approach works.

A Long-Term Commitment

From the outset, we have worked with and for communities, learning from the inside-out and the ground-up exactly what challenges each community faces. Our activities are not pre-packaged or off-the-shelf. There are no ‘one size fits all’ solutions. If there’s been a constant factor in the 10–12 years that each community project takes to succeed, it’s that no two scenarios are the same and that the complex spread of acute and chronic issues affecting each community is as unique as the individuals within them.

We are here to help East African communities find the long-term solutions they need and want, not to impose our own concept of what success might look like to us in the West. Everything we do is targeted, relevant and appropriate to the specific economic, health, educational, political, cultural and environmental needs of each and every community with which we work.

A Unique Approach

We don’t get everything right. Not everything can be fixed. There are, of course, always ways in which we could improve. But, because our underlying methodology is to work with and within communities, we know we’re on the right track and that we have every opportunity to learn from the people who really matter how to improve and do things better.

We’ll be the first to see if ‘Plan A’ isn’t working, and we’ll be perfectly placed to introduce ‘Plan B’ with immediate effect. It’s this methodology, combined with our long-term commitment to helping communities find sustainable solutions for living, which makes our approach unique and sets us apart from other organisations within the sector.

Our work focuses on all aspects of child and community development, creating sustainable futures for all involved. We have a profound understanding of the areas where we work through our baseline research, constant communication and interaction with partners (marginalized members of the community, the wider community, government and other NGO’s) and extensive monitoring and evaluation. We don’t spread the net far and wide across numerous project sites on our own. Instead, we focus on providing a full and extensive programme to those communities that are in need and have requested support and training from us.

By engaging, training and mobilizing local volunteers, we embed our collective help within local communities and ensure that solutions devised and delivered locally are also owned locally.

We currently operate across four project sites; Bungoma, Western Kenya; Siaya, Nyanza Province; Arumeru District, Arusha Region and Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region and hope to secure funding to roll out our programmes to a further two sites in early 2014; Mwanza Region & Mahenge.

Over 10 years, our approach has demonstrated its sustainability, impact and cost effectiveness, as evidenced by the growing number of partner organisations who approach us and request training in our work. Ace Africa is committed to developing children and their communities to the point where they no longer need our input. We are here to work collaboratively with communities to give them the skills, educational and health support, economic stability, confidence and resilience to not just imagine a brighter future but work independently to make it happen for future generations. Our Child and Community programmes cover four key areas; Child Development, Health and Well-Being, Agriculture and Nutrition and Economic Empowerment. These are covered in detail in Section 3.
Our Programme
Into Phases

Our Approach

Why 10 – 12 Years?
Because changing the life opportunities of an entire community is a painstaking, methodical job and one that simply can’t be rushed. These are projects where the goal is to make the non-existent or exceptional – health, well-being, economic resilience, community sustainability – the norm.

We work as fast as conditions, circumstances and funding allow. We are looking to leave behind communities with sufficiently embedded and robust structures and systems that these become an enduringly successful legacy that may be handed down across the generations to come.

We start by conducting baseline research in target areas. This is about identifying the nature and scope of need, and working with community and other stakeholders (government or NGOs) to create a realistic and achievable programme of change. To this end, we build community awareness and provide training and technical support to individuals, groups, mentors and local partners.

Beyond this, we will significantly enhance the ability of local groups and stakeholders to plan, budget, implement, monitor and report on their activities, providing technical support and advocating at local and district levels for stronger partnerships and better integrated service provision.

We will also establish effective community structures such as Project Area Advisory Committees (PAAC) and Child Rights Committees, and look to build key stakeholder partnerships. This is all part of putting in place the people and structures necessary for swift and effective decision making over the years to come.

We will work with and for stakeholders to enable community groups, committees and individuals to better access locally devolved funds and enhance the scope and efficacy of their activities.

We will provide community groups, committees and individuals with training in monitoring and evaluation, proposal writing, budgeting and strategic planning.

We will also train people in systems management and reporting, helping them to build stronger links from the community to district level across all sectors, for example, MoH (Ministry of Health), MoE (Ministry of Education) and MoA (Ministry of Agricultural government department).

In addition, we will promote community members and local partners (MoH, MoE, and MoA) as effective service providers and ambassadors at local, district and national level, and provide further technical support to ensure that all activities are accurately monitored and evaluated.

Support By Ace Africa

YEAR 1 - 4
PHASE ONE
We start by conducting baseline research in target areas. This is about identifying the nature and scope of need, and working with community and other stakeholders (government or NGOs) to create a realistic and achievable programme of change. To this end, we build community awareness and provide training and technical support to individuals, groups, mentors and local partners.

YEAR 5 - 8
PHASE TWO
Through increased training and technical support we will bring vital skills and knowledge to communities and mentors. We will also expand both the number and the remit of community groups, establishing networks and clear lines of communication and support between all key stakeholders within both umbrella and locally focused groups.

YEAR 9 - 12
PHASE THREE
Beyond this, we will significantly enhance the ability of local groups and stakeholders to plan, budget, implement, monitor and report on their activities, providing technical support and advocating at local and district levels for stronger partnerships and better integrated service provision.

We will work with and for stakeholders to enable community groups, committees and individuals to better access locally devolved funds and enhance the scope and efficacy of their activities.

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In addition, we will promote community members and local partners (MoH, MoE, and MoA) as effective service providers and ambassadors at local, district and national level, and provide further technical support to ensure that all activities are accurately monitored and evaluated.
The Ace CtC (Child to Child) Clubs approach helps children learn what to do in order to promote the health, well-being and development of themselves, their families and their communities. As active decision makers, children become influential agents for change in making health choices in schools and the community. Since its inception in 2005, the Ace CtC Clubs programme has expanded to include specific HIV related education in life skills, protection, counselling, peer education, agriculture and nutrition.

- Develop knowledge through song, games, plays, debates, art and writing in health, literacy, animal husbandry and psychosocial wellbeing
- Establish community gardens at each Ace Club primary school through the provision of seeds, drip irrigation and other tools to provide education for the children, food for the schools/community as well as income generation
- Develop peer mentoring and leadership
- Develop a group strategy to recognize and reward the roles played by community volunteers including Ace Club teachers and children whilst ensuring sustainability (rather than dependency) is instilled

Because Ace Africa works to achieve long-term, sustainable improvements, our Child Development programmes are essential to ensuring that the change we help deliver can be passed from generation to generation. In giving children the skills and knowledge they need to build healthy, productive and fulfilling lives for themselves, we are creating the kind of inter-generational legacy that can and will provide enduring success for communities and individuals alike.

What we do

Ace CtC Clubs

We have helped over 650,000 children and their communities in respect of health, education, livelihoods and rights awareness.

650,000
**Child Protection**

The Ace Africa rights protection programme exists to increase awareness of the rights of children and women, particularly in areas where HIV is prevalent. We aim to strengthen community knowledge and the ability to protect the rights of children and women, promoting a ‘whole community’ approach where all children, including the most vulnerable, have their rights protected and respected.

The programme involves educating the community about their rights; establishing Child Rights Committees who are responsible for raising awareness of child rights; identifying, solving and referring issues of child abuse and strengthening links between the community, district and national protection systems.

- Train community members as Household and Child Welfare mentors to ensure protection from abuse and exploitation
- Support District Rights Committees (DRC) and Areas Advisory Committees (AAC) to design and implement clear community referral systems to ensure children’s rights are recognized and pro bono legal support is available
- Build on links with local government and partners to ensure quality services are provided and local government provision is held accountable
- Work with local service providers to enhance their ability to provide quality services that meet the needs of the community

**Educational Support**

Critical to access and retention in school is ensuring children are fully equipped to attend. Whilst primary school tuition is free, the reality is children without a uniform and the necessary stationary are not allowed to attend. Ace Africa reaches out to the most vulnerable children and provides them with the necessary resources to ensure they can complete primary education, including sanitary items for girls’ regular attendance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal bursary and alumni sponsors who have provided life-changing opportunities for children through the gift of secondary and university education in Kenya, where this education is not free. Going forward, the programme is being phased out as governments and other donors increasingly take on the responsibility of providing bursaries and counseling to vulnerable children.

- Continue to support two schools for orphans in Kenya through the provision of teachers, school uniforms and scholastic materials for students attending the school
- Provide school uniforms, sanitary towels, personal items and emergency aid for other vulnerable children and their families e.g. bed nets, essential household items to facilitate increased school attendance and reduce vulnerability
- Continue to manage current 120 bursary cases supported by individual sponsors mostly from UK and assist in recalibration of bursary support to be provided by in country
- Continue to build our network and mapping of local services and partners to facilitate referrals to bursary and other providers

15 Child Rights Committees established and functioning to resolve cases of child abuse and neglect.

200
Ace CtC Clubs in schools providing life skills to over 30,000 children since 2003

15,000
children currently in Ace CtC Clubs.
Education System

Since 2005, 99% of children in Ace CtC Clubs have improved cleanliness habits. There has been an increase in the knowledge on HIV and AIDS, a decline in teenage pregnancies, improved retention in schools (particularly for girls) and increased participation of children in their own protection and health management.

2 Trained teachers establish 1 Ace CtC Club benefiting 85 children, 5 teachers, 90 households and 450 family members

£300
Ace Africa trains 2 teachers in Ace CtC Clubs Health and HIV Education

2 Teachers

1 Ace CtC Club
5 Teachers
85 Children
90 Households
450 Family Members

180 Households
900 Family Members

90 Households share learning with 2 neighbours benefiting 180 new households and 900 family members
Brian was introduced to the Ace CtC Club in his school and became a member. The club has provided him with food from the school demonstration garden and Ace has supplied him with school uniforms and counselling. He has been trained in Agriculture and Nutrition and has established a sustainable kitchen garden at home. Brian has joined a local support group which works closely with Ace.

**Outcome**

Brian now has a reliable source of food from his kitchen garden. He attends school during weekdays and works on a farm at weekends in order to make ends meet. Brian is an active member of the Ace CtC Clubs at Agulu primary school. He is optimistic and dedicated in his studies, and his class performance has improved tremendously. From his farm earnings, he is able to buy additional food and sell the surplus to raise money for school fees and other needs.

“Ace Africa’s activities are well rooted in the community and they collaborate well with partners on the ground. It is good Ace has begun to implement strategies for transferring its community based services to other communities.”

Beth Mbaka Head of HIV and AIDS Programming Comic Relief
While disease, lack of hygiene and minimal resources are clearly problems in much of rural East Africa, the bigger problem is lack of awareness of these issues and the simple steps that could be taken to minimize exposure to risk. Our Health and Well-Being programme exists to provide people with the knowledge and training they need to make better decisions regarding their health and to work proactively to prevent the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

**Key Areas**

- Improve psychological well-being through professional trauma counseling of guardians of vulnerable children and the training of volunteers and community counselors
- Provide a range of family planning education and resources at household level. These include information on birth spacing, breast-feeding, disease prevention and health promotion.
- We also supply condoms and refer individuals to health facilities for further, high-quality family planning support.
- Reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS through training in communication, critical thinking and presentation skills
- Work with local service providers and government departments to provide quality health services
- Improve health and well-being through the provision of outreach HIV testing and counseling including a one-stop counseling centre for the most marginalised (or at risk) in communities, general hygiene and jiggers eradication campaigns
- Establish new Community Resource Centres to support the new project sites
- Improve health and well-being through the provision of outreach HIV testing and counseling including a one-stop counseling centre for the most marginalised (or at risk) in communities, general hygiene and jiggers eradication campaigns
- Educate children and their communities in dental health, hand washing and jiggers control
- Support children in improving their community environment through general hygiene and environment campaigns
- Train teachers and child welfare counselors to expand the reach of our psychological support
- Provide professional counseling for orphans

**What we do**

- Improve psychological well-being through professional trauma counseling
- Train teachers and child welfare counselors to expand the reach of our psychological support
- Educate children and their communities in dental health, hand washing and jiggers control
- Support children in improving their community environment through general hygiene and environment campaigns
- Establish new Community Resource Centres to support the new project sites
- Improve health and well-being through the provision of outreach HIV testing and counseling including a one-stop counseling centre for the most marginalised (or at risk) in communities, general hygiene and jiggers eradication campaigns
- Community members that have received HIV prevention and care services
- Condoms supplied to community members
- Community members that have received HIV prevention and care services
- Supported with direct emergency aid including mosquito nets, medication and sanitary towels

**Recipient of Stars Foundation Award**
in the category of *Health 2010*
“Since I got involved with the Ace Africa programmes, I have brought changes to my family. So my neighbours saw these positive changes and decided to join me. I taught them what I had been taught by Ace Africa. Things like planting of vegetables, keeping of chickens, goats and cattle and they agreed to new methods of improving farming and started doing it in their own homes.”

Shaban Somba, Committee Member, Bungoma, Western Kenya

Real Lives: Irene Adhiambo
A Significant Change

Irene was diagnosed with HIV in 2007. She was not married. Later that year she married a man who had also tested positive for HIV. Irene had no children of her own but helped raise her husband’s child. They lived in a single-roomed, grass thatched house which was in a very bad condition.

Despite having no defined source of income, she believed in good nutrition – but neither she nor her husband had the training to translate their love for gardening activities into the skills needed to successfully grow produce. She was introduced to Ace Africa by the Area Advisory committee in 2008.

Ace Intervention

An Ace Counseling officer met Irene in 2008 at the Ace Resource Centre. She revealed her HIV status to the counselor. Her health was not good. She started receiving regular psycho-social support from the counselor and, in time, was engaged as the area gardener. Irene has been supported through training in organic kitchen gardening, local poultry production, fish farming, grain amaranth and soya production and basic guidance and counseling skills as well as peer education. This training has given her the foundations upon which to change her life for the better. She has also been trained by other organizations such as Red Cross and Matibabu Foundation in home-based care.

Ace’s training in agriculture and income generation has enabled Irene to establish a thriving garden of produce for both subsistence and sale. This, together with income from her poultry project and the sale of surplus produce, has enabled her to build and move to a new three-roomed house.

Irene is now an agriculture and nutrition mentor, and through this she has helped a number of people in the area to establish their own kitchen gardens and guarantee themselves at least one meal per day. She has also donated a piece of land to help more people who are malnourished or infected with HIV. Currently she is stationed at the health facility where she volunteers. She has been actively involved in hygiene and health promotion by taking part in organized community forums such as counselling and testing outreach services and jigger campaigns. She is part of the Project Area Advisory Committee-PAAC (which guides Ace Africa project implementation) as well as the Area Advisory Council – which is a committee established by the government of Kenya under the Children’s Act of 2001. She also belongs to North Ugenya A development group.

Outcome

Before Ace involvement, Irene had very nearly given up on life. Ace’s psycho-social support has given her the strength to come to terms with her condition and today she is a positive example to others on the benefits of good nutrition and strict adherence to the antiretroviral therapy regime.

Irene has been an agriculture and nutrition mentor to a number of others in the community who have also benefited by raising chickens, goats and cattle and started doing it in their own homes.

Health And Well-Being Case Study

Name of Beneficiary
Irene Adhiambo

Project Area, Location
North Ugenya A, Siaya

Date First Identified
January 2008

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Ace Africa works with communities towards enabling sustainable agriculture production and ensuring that everyone receives sufficient nutritious food – for the long-term. We provide training in nutrition and in sustainable, organic methods of farming, develop community mentors and provide seeds, tools and technical support at the outset.

Our training and support programmes cover a wide spectrum of farming and nutrition issues.

- We provide education in the production of high-value nutritious crops, protein supplementation, water saving and improved agriculture techniques. We also support households and the larger community in developing skills and knowledge to improve their nutrition through the establishment of individual and community/group organic kitchen gardens using water saving and improved agricultural techniques to produce a variety of both indigenous and exotic crops.
- We develop knowledge in cereal banking with the aim of helping groups maximise the production and storage of nutritional supplements to safeguard against drought seasons and exploitation by middlemen.
- We train and develop individuals and community groups in animal husbandry (including poultry; goats; rabbits), to ensure adequate protein supplementation for community households.
- Our start-up packages provide seeds, tools and livestock for small farms – poultry and goats, etc.
- By training people in the effective use of stove liners to reduce firewood collection, optimised fuel consumption and improved hygiene and safety in kitchens, we are making a significant contribution to the enhanced health and well-being of all community members.
Adoption, scale up and sustainability

The direct training and long term approach promotes the cost-effective sharing of skills with thousands of other households who benefit from improved livelihoods through peer learning.

1. £23 - Ace Africa trains 1 community member in Agriculture and Nutrition and provides start-up seeds. He or she establishes 1 household garden.

2. Ace trainee trains 5 neighbours and provides them with start-up seeds from his seed bank. They establish 5 individual gardens providing food to 25 household members.

3. Each community trainee trains 2 neighbours and provides them with start-up seed from their seed banks. They establish 10 individual gardens providing food to 50 household members.
Bernard, 51 years old, is happily married to Beatrice and the proud father to a brood of 10 children, which he supports and cares for. Born, raised and still living in the Bungoma Region, Bernard lives in the Ace project site of Mechimeru. Bernard was identified by Ace in 2007 and at the time he showed some great skills and enthusiasm for his own subsistence farming on his 2-acre plot. The Project Area Committee members identified Bernard as a potential trainee.

**Agriculture And Nutrition Case Study**

**Name of Beneficiary**
Bernard Nyongesa

**Date First Identified**
2007

**Project Area, Location**
Mechimeru, Bungoma

**Ace Intervention**

Bernard was trained by Ace Africa in agriculture and nutrition. Due to his excellent work, he was selected to be a community agricultural mentor. Part of his job as a mentor is to establish a model farm that can be used as an example for the rest of the community. In addition, he is required to train five other local residents in agriculture and nutrition. In this way, agricultural skills can spread across the community and a sustainable legacy created for future generations.

Bernard plants a variety of foods, including banana, passion fruit, pineapple, maize, soya, sweet potato, sweet pea, pumpkin and sugar cane. His Ace training means that he now has a reliable source of food all year round.

Bernard and 4 fellow mentors in the Mechimeru region teach community members how to avoid the problem of over-reliance on too few crops, crops that are vulnerable to disease and crops that have a limited growing season.

**Outcome**

Bernard is able to feed his 10 children and support them through school. This achievement is a testament to his hard work as a farmer and the quality of the training he received from Ace. Bernard now considers it his duty to help other community members achieve similar success and pass on his skills and training to the next generation.

“I think the community owns these projects as they are the ones who run them. Ace just gives direction and support and we the community should pick up from where they left off, since the community belongs to us.”

Ferdinand Wanyama, Bungoma Activator
Economic Empowerment

Key Areas

Economic empowerment is a key cornerstone of our approach to providing sustainable long-term solutions which will truly endure. By helping people gain the skills and experience they need to secure economic independence, we are permanently breaking the cycle of dependency that has for so long robbed individuals and communities of the chance to live fulfilling and rewarding lives.

What we do

- We work with communities, groups and individuals to provide training, education and on-going support across a variety of areas within the remit of Economic Empowerment.
- We help to facilitate the development of micro-enterprises (e.g. agriculture, agribusiness) through the provision of start-up finance, materials (e.g. goats, poultry, milk) and business training.
- We provide training on proposal writing, fundraising and marketing, connecting groups with suitable markets for their produce and skills.
- We expand and extend project management skills and entrepreneurship through the provision of training in financial resource management and the establishment of revolving community funds.
- We also identify and engage other sources of long-term funding and support and we train community groups in how to access funds and grants to the best effect and with greatest relevance and benefit to the community.
Kondiek United Progressive Association (KUPA) was started in 1989 and was formally registered with the Department of Social Services in 1990 with a membership of 35 (5m, 30f). This group was started with main objective of contributing money on a monthly basis to be spent during Christmas season.

The group did not have the constitution for guidance, however the officials were elected but their roles and responsibilities were not clearly defined. KUPA was primarily engaged in financial lending among members (merry-go-round). Each group member would contribute an agreed sum each month with the collected fund being given to one group member at a time in turn. The group also provided labour where the members would come together and work collectively on one another’s farms in turn. The activities became monotonous and were not giving them significant change in their livelihood. When they started working with Ace Africa, they identified economic well being, farming techniques and nutrition as areas where they needed support.

They then realigned their objectives to ensure sustainability of the group. At the moment the number of members has reduced to 20 (4m, 16f) as a result of relocation of the members and dismissal on non commitment grounds.

How KUPA was identified

This group was referred by North Ugenya Location Area Chief who had interacted with the group and was interested in organizing community Chief meetings in June 2006. The chairperson of the group then approached the then Entrepreneurship officer for possible collaboration. The group was visited by the staff to establish the group activities.

Findings depicted that the group had the potential to upscale their activities if empowered and therefore Ace Africa formally started working with KUPA in 2007.

Problems noted during the vetting

Key areas of weakness identified during the vetting process included lack of bank accounts, inadequate production from farming, lack of funding to run group activities such as OVC support program, poor economic security among the members, poor record keeping /leadership skills.

Outcome

The group was trained on leadership skills and was formally started working with KUPA in June 2006. The group members were trained in organic kitchen gardening to enhance food availability at the household level and start up materials provided. In the course of engagement, the group showed interest in soya production and in July 2008, the group members were trained in Soya cultivation, processing and marketing. With the support of Viok Foundation the group was provided with Soya milling machine and start up seeds in the same year (2008). This training was conducted with the aim of ensuring food security and income generation to the group members. In 2009, the group was later trained in resource mobilization and proposal writing to enable them access funding such as devolved funds for project diversification and have been linked to partners such as the United States President’s Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Constituency AIDS Control Council (CACC) funding and they have been able to get financial support for expansion. In 2011, the group was trained on leadership skills and project management as well as record keeping.

Impact Created

The group have played instrumental role in supporting orphaned and vulnerable children and other vulnerable adult members of the community. Between 2008 and 2010, KUPA was able to support an average of 40 children, but as a result of empowerment and diversification of projects, the support has currently increased to 129 (65m: 66f) children, both from within and outside their households, for instance they are supporting 80 (45m, 35f) OVC within members’ households and another 49(18m, 31f) outside the household, 3(1m, 2f) aged persons are also currently supported. Main support include: school uniform, blankets, soya flour, food, sanitary towels, soap and school related materials like pens and books. The groups have expanded their networks, among the partners who have worked with the group included: Ministry of agriculture by training them in conservation agriculture, Ugenya Community against HIV and AIDS (UCHA) by training them in basic computer skills and report writing and Organization for Transforming Initiated Technologies (OTIT) by training them in book keeping.

The group is able to make a profit of Ksh 36, 670 monthly and spend about 40% to support OVC and reinvest the remaining portion into the business. The members have other personal income generating businesses such as sale of surplus farm proceeds, table banking ventures; therefore the members of the group can make a monthly income of Ksh 3000 on average.

Next Steps

This group is one of the groups that has successfully progressed and is acting as a role model to other upcoming groups. At this point the group is able to sustain itself with less support from Ace Africa, and they will only need periodic technical support.
Research And Partnerships

The purpose of Ace Africa’s research activities is twofold:

I) Baseline Community Research – establishing Ace Africa programmes

Our programmes are founded on in-depth research with and for communities across key areas - health, HIV, economic and food security, available services/gaps in service provision and education. This community focus ensures that all Ace programmes are bespoke and tailored to meet the specific, unique needs of each community.

Ace has conducted in-depth baseline research across all its project sites prior to intervention, starting off in Bungoma, Western Kenya in 2003. In 2012 the Ace team conducted baseline research in three new areas including Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region, Kome Island, Sengerema District, Mwanza Region and Mahenge District, Morogoro Region, Tanzania.

II) Research Partnerships – validating results and adding value to programmes in the context of the international development debate

Ace Africa partners with The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University, New Orleans, USA, to undertake community research studies in agricultural practices and technologies, and their effectiveness in delivering sustainable livelihoods. Ace Africa has worked with Tulane University, TICAH and the Rockefeller Foundation on a study of traditional healing practices in the context of deliverable health services.

Also, we conduct internal research on specific community projects and are regularly engaged by third parties (foundations, donors, corporate partners) to conduct external baseline community research to identify needs and prioritize funding allocation. Last year, Ace Africa conducted research into community needs for the Kilimanjaro Care Foundation (Ilkidinga, Arumeru District, Arusha Region) and the Vitol Foundation (Kome Island, Sengerema District, Mwanza Region). We also conducted research into environmentally cleaner, energy-saving stoves for The Colourful Life Foundation and Sainsbury’s Charitable Trust.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

In 2012, Ace Africa continued in partnership as the Kenya NGO representative with Duke University, School of Public Health. We started a new 5 year project on Trauma Counselling for orphans and vulnerable children, called Trauma Focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (TF-CBT) which will assist 320 OVC and their guardians. This project directly follows published findings of Phase one of POFO (2005 - 2010) which found that OVC went through emotional and psychological trauma with no services to address their needs.

The current (Phase 2) POFO study is a follow-up research project to assess the coping skills and development needs of over 500 children and caregivers as they move into adulthood.

Capacity Building

Over the past 10 years, we have helped build the capacity of more than 120 community groups in Kenya and Tanzania. Today, many of these groups and individuals are now able to support themselves and their families, sustain their activities and provide care and support to orphans and vulnerable children, without the support of Ace Africa. Specifically:

- In Kenya 70% of these groups, through their own sustained income generating activities are now able to support OVC with school fees, food, household items, shelter etc, without the support of Ace Africa.
- In Kenya, 40% of these groups have successfully accessed locally available government and other grants and funds to enable them to develop and manage their own businesses, increasing their income by 300% since 2003.

We also work with international organisations to help build their capacity and share knowledge. Over the past 10 years our training and capacity building has extended to other countries, including Uganda and Ethiopia, with whom we share skills in governance, monitoring and evaluation, and programme interventions.

Over the past 10 years, we have significantly increased the number of our local and international partners. Currently, we work with 11 partners including the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Gender, Children and Social Services, Youth Affairs, Justice, Livestock, Fisheries, Environment, Internal Security and Special Projects in Kenya and Tanzania.

We are the leading implementing partner of the Child to Child (CtC) Trust in Sub Saharan Africa, having established 200 Ace CtC Clubs in primary schools in Kenya and Tanzania. We have represented the Trust at International forums including the facilitation forum at the 8th Annual Short Course on Strengthening Contemporary School Health, Nutrition & HIV Prevention Programmes 2012. Ace Africa also conducts training locally and internationally on the Ace CtC Clubs approach.
10 Year Highlights

10 years of proven field work with impressive milestones

Endorsed and funded by recognized institutions such as Comic Relief, Egmont Trust and Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission

Highly Commended in The Charity Awards 2013, in the category of International Aid and Development

Shortlisted for SEED Award in the category Improving Community Nutrition And Food Security 2011

Shortlisted for Cordaid Award in the category Improving Community Access To Health Services 2011

Recipient of Stars Foundation Award in the category of Health 2010

In 10 years Ace Africa has gone from strength to strength and helped over 650,000 children and their communities enabling them to lead healthier, happier and self-sufficient lives through improved food and economic security, health, well-being and rights awareness.

Strong Research capabilities sought after by Duke University, other academic institutes and corporates such as The Waitrose Foundation and Tulane University Department of Public Health

5 international NGOs and 10 Community Based Organisations have rolled out to-date Ace Africa programme (full/partially)

Run by Africans and for Africans, Ace has a team of 55 African employees representing a 90% of total paid staff

Relies on the support of over 4,000 non-paid local volunteers evidencing the strong local support that the organization locally enjoys

Joe Waddington, the only British founder of Ace Africa, continues leading from the front working on-site as she has done for the past 10 years
Ace’s clear vision is to strengthen communities, helping them help themselves in health, education, livelihoods and rights. It is almost ten years to the day since Ace began working in the community of Kabuchai – and the legacy of Ace’s programmes will continue for many generations. While Ace is still very much involved with the community of Kabuchai, our presence is, thankfully, needed less and less, and the community has moved from crisis living to independence over the years.

**Ace Intervention**

In 2003, when Ace had just started, Kabuchai was one of the first communities in which Ace’s pioneering operations began. The aim then was to develop cooperative support groups for youth, women and people living with HIV and AIDS. Training was provided in nutritious food production and enterprises. As the benefits of the training became obvious, many new groups in the area began to form and our help was urgently sought by the wider community to provide training in resource mobilisation and proposal writing in order to sustain an expanding support programme.

In late 2005 the community-based organisation RUCEBO was established in Kabuchai. At this initial stage 60 members from 4 groups were involved in conducting enterprise activities and directly supporting 40 orphans, with training provided in income generation and how to provide food, care and support to households and the community. In addition to training in organic kitchen gardening, members were trained in proposal writing, resource mobilisation and child rights. The group’s new proposal writing skills led directly to the award of funding from NCDFT for Ksh 250,000 to establish a model drip irrigation garden and have had repeated success ever since. In 2009 groups from RUCEBO were provided with Ace training in business management, marketing and project cycle management.

8 years on from the establishment of RUCEBO there are now 14 groups established and operating under this umbrella programme with 370 women and 232 men passing on their knowledge and skills to more community members. Activities within the groups range from dairy goat and poultry rearing to soya cultivation and general horticulture. These enterprises earn each group a monthly profit of Ksh 150,000 per month.

Ace works with 10 schools in the project area through Ace Child-to-Child Clubs, providing vulnerable children and orphans with the skills and knowledge they need to develop into healthy adults. Ace has run a number of health campaigns with the Ace Club schools in Kabuchai covering dental hygiene, hand washing practices and jiggers eradication.

Formal Area Advisory and Community Rights Committees have been established to identify cases of rights abuse and neglect against children, women and the community at large. These committees cease to solve the problem, refer them to Ace where necessary and other service providers such as health facilities and local judiciary.

Kabuchai is just one of many compelling examples of the impact Ace Africa programmes have had on communities in rural East Africa. There are many other examples.

“Ace Africa is different from other organizations who, are usually less visible and provide one off capacity building or food support in the community. Ace Africa’s approach is long term, working from the bottom up and without handouts. They are continually in the communities to ensure the sustainability of activities. Ace Africa’s approach involves the community in all processes of management and service delivery.”

Regional Officer, Anglican Development Services, Siaya 2010

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**Ace, A decade of work with the Kabuchai community**

**Real Lives:**

**Name of Group**

Rucebo

**Date First Identified**

2003

**Project Area, Location**

Kabuchai, Bungoma

**10 Year Highlights Case Study**

**Outcome**

Ace’s clear vision is to strengthen communities, helping them help themselves in health, education, livelihoods and rights. It is almost ten years to the day since Ace began working in the community of Kabuchai – and the legacy of Ace’s programmes will continue for many generations. While Ace is still very much involved with the community of Kabuchai, our presence is, thankfully, needed less and less, and the community has moved from crisis living to independence over the years.
Donors And Supporters

If you want happiness for an hour; take a nap. If you want happiness for a day; go fishing. If you want happiness for a month; get married. If you want happiness for a year; inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime; help someone else.

Chinese proverb

Special Thanks to all our supporters over the last 10 years

We would like to take this opportunity to pass on our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, Friends of Ace, Ambassadors, event sponsors, private benefactors, bursary sponsors, supporters of the Truck Fund/Emergency Fund/Rosie Dywer Fund and our many other loyal individual supporters over the years (too numerous to list).

Institutional & Government Donors

Catholic Diocese of Bungoma, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), Comic Relief, Diocese of Maseno West Bungoma, Duke University USA, Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, Kenya AIDS NGO’s Consortium (MANCO), National AIDS Control Council (Kenya), The Commonwealth Foundation, Tulane University USA, USAID/AED, USAID/Africa Plus, Unicef Kenya.

Trusts and Foundations


Corporates


Schools and Universities


Other Partners


Special Supporters


Major Donors 2012

Alex and William de Winton, David Barnes, Kip Meek, Lynne and Fran Howard, Marco and Sabine, Mike Hammond, Paul Danes.

UK Office Interns and Volunteers 2012

Emma Ridley, Flossie Colenette, Harry Lightfoot, Jamie Walling, John de Winton, Natasha Ristic, Nicola Stokes, Rosi Durance.

Thank you to Lockton Companies for providing our pro bono office for the Ace Africa UK team.

Acclaimed Chef, Phil Howard, Runs the London Marathon for Ace

Public Ambassador of Ace Africa, acclaimed chef and an elite runner, Phil Howard, yet again showed his support for Ace Africa in 2012 by running the London Marathon on our and Tusk’s behalf. Having witnessed the programmes for himself, Phil has seen first-hand the impact Ace is having on in communities in rural East Africa. We would like to say a huge thank you to Phil for raising over £5,000 for Ace!

Hugo Norman and his team bravely scale Mount Cameron

Long standing supporter Hugo Norman, acclaimed chef and an elite runner, once again took on the dizzying heights of Mount Cameroon. With great endurance and huge fundraising support from their friends, families and employer the team raised a fantastic £6,210 for Ace Africa, and we are delighted that British American Tobacco, through their matched funded employee scheme gave a further £4,000 to Ace. Hugo congratulations to Hugo and the boys!
Get Involved

How You Can Help

As a not-for-profit organization, we rely entirely upon the generosity of supporters like you: people whose donations, funding and involvement will help us permanently and irrevocably end the cycle of dependency - community by community, child by child.

Donate

Every contribution counts, however big or small. And remember that with Gift Aid we can claim an extra 25p on each pound you donate at no additional cost to you.

Regular Giving, Become a Friend of Ace

Regular giving means we can plan for the future, as we know we can rely on your donation every month to help develop the communities we support. This is particularly important to Ace as our 10-12 year programmes demand that we have security and reliability of income to ensure that we can meet our long-term objectives. From Copper level at £5 a month to the Diamond level at £100 we look forward to welcoming you to this important group.

Join our Ambassador Programme

To proactively support Ace Africa by helping to raise our profile and connecting us with new supporters, please contact us to learn more about our Ambassador Programme. From taking part in an Ace Event Committee to sorting out auction and raffle items for our events, your contribution will make a real and lasting difference.

Participate in our Events

Join us at Ace events, from quiz nights to sporting and adventure challenges such as cycling from London to Paris, running the Royal Parks Half Marathon or even trekking to Kilimanjaro.

Stay connected

Sign up for our mailing list in which we report news on the work we’re doing in local communities and share stories about Ace Africa and our supporters.

For major gifts, grants, corporate and other forms of giving please contact info@ace-africa.org

Donate by cheque

Please send a cheque payable to ‘Ace Africa’ to Ace Africa (UK), c/o Lockton Companies LLP, The St Botolph Building, 138 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7AG

Donate by bank transfer

Barclays Bank / Sort Code: 20-47-35 / Account Number: 10648418

Donate on-line

Please enter http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/ and select Ace Africa

For more details, please visit our website www.ace-africa.org or contact us at info@ace-africa.org

Thank you in advance for investing in a better future for people who want nothing more than to realize their potential and that of their communities. You will be making a difference which, by definition, is sure to endure.

What your money can buy

£12 Enables a vulnerable girl to attend school month round through the provision of a year’s supply of sanitary towels

£15 Buys 5 chicks for a household to improve their nutritional & economic security

£25 Provides enough seeds to support 8 households with a variety of nutritious food (kale, spinach, bananas, pineapple, etc)

£30 Provides 10 school meals with hand-washing units for improved hygiene and sanitation practices

£50 Treats 50 children infected with the jiggers parasite enabling them to attend school regularly

£100 Covers the cost of one legal aid clinic, offering legal advice and guidance to children and women where rights abuses have been committed

£200 Covers the cost of a World AIDS Day Advocacy Forum benefiting 500 children & vulnerable community members

£300 Funds a peanuts processing machine for a community group to earn a living

£400 Buys 3 goats and supports 12 people with protein-rich dairy milk

£800 Trains 20 teachers, that will teach 500 children, in essential HIV/AIDS knowledge on prevention and transmission

£1500 Trains 2 groups (40 members) on goat rearing for improved household food and economic security
Ace Africa in the UK, Kenya, and Tanzania work closely together to raise funds for the programmes that Ace Africa supports in rural communities. Ace Africa UK exists to raise funds for Kenya and Tanzania and manages grants from a range of UK registered trusts, foundations and corporates, as well as taking responsibility for relationships with our long-standing and new supporters and organising Ace events for crucial unrestricted income which can be distributed in programmatic areas where we find funding shortfalls.

The success of both Kenya and Tanzania fundraising in-country year on year is gaining momentum and increasingly we are finding local corporates and foundations to support Ace’s vision and hope this continues into the future.

The financial information below shows the combined income and expenditure of the three organisations.¹

Income

Challenging economic circumstances continued in 2012. Total income in 2012 was £554,000 compared to £584,000 in 2011, with a split between programme grants of £384,000 (2011: £294,000), general donations of £140,000 (2011: £146,000) and event income of £30,000 (2011: £79,000). No major fundraising event was held during 2012, which explains the decrease in event income and we came to the end of the STARS award.

Expenditure

Expenditure in Ace’s charitable activities continued to be spread across its focus areas. 2012 expenditure was £624,000 compared to £632,000 in 2011, split between £527,000 grant making (2011: £532,000), £79,000 fundraising and grant application costs (2011: £95,000), and £18,000 governance costs (2011: £13,000).

In 2012 Ace Africa Tanzania commenced operations in the new project site of Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region with a focus on livelihoods and Ace CtC Clubs, with further plans to increase programmes there in 2013.

From every £1 of income raised in 2012, we spent 82.5p on our programmes in Africa and 17.5p on fundraising and governance costs, which is an improvement compared to 18.5p in 2011.

¹ The Trustees’ Report and Financial Accounts of Ace Africa (UK) are available through the Charity Commission website. Please contact us at info@ace-africa.org for any additional information on our financial accounts.

In 2012 Ace Africa reached a total of 170,087 direct beneficiaries and 340,174 indirect beneficiaries at an average cost of less than £3 per direct beneficiary.
Ace Africa has made dramatic progress in the past 10 years. In 2013, our tenth anniversary year, we are determined to bring Ace Africa to a new level and have set an ambitious fundraising target of £1Mio that will extend the reach of our work to benefit the lives of a greater number of children and communities in Kenya and Tanzania.

We are thrilled that in this exciting year our work has further been endorsed by a third consecutive three-year grant from Comic Relief totaling £385,000. Early in 2013 we also gained new support from Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust and Chalk Cliff Trust, with a number of other new grants in the pipeline.

Ace Africa continues to strengthen its capacity by evolving from a purely donor funded charity to embrace social enterprise, generating new income from trading activities such as research on behalf of third parties and greater involvement in Corporate Social Responsibility.

We are strengthening our income generation activities and updating the Ace Africa brand to reflect our more focused approach to the next generation of children and to communities.

We continue to go from strength to strength, as illustrated by recent – and upcoming – events and awards. We are delighted to have been highly commended in a prestigious Charity Award in 2013. Ace Africa was one of three charities shortlisted from over 22 entries in the International Aid and Development category, and we are proud to have our work recognized and applauded, particularly in this 10th year.

Our most successful Quiz Night yet took place in April 2013, and we raised over £10,000. In September, we have secured much sought after air-time on Radio 4’s charity appeal and the services of a well-known celebrity to present our case. On October 17th our 10 year gala event will take place to celebrate our achievements to date.

In Africa, programmes and research take centre-stage. We have recently moved to new sites in several current areas of operation, including Bungoma, Siaya, Arusha and Moshi. These developments are sure to help realize our vision of supporting and enabling more children and their communities in the areas of health, education, livelihoods and rights. We hope that, in time, we will secure the funding to establish operations in Mwanza Region and Mahenge, where we conducted robust baseline research in 2012.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Chairman, Francis Howard, who retired in April following many years of unwavering support of Ace Africa. We are very pleased to report Mr Howard will remain involved as a Trustee. We would like to also extend a warm welcome to John Collenette, our new Chairman, who will lead us through this exciting time in Ace’s history.

“Ace Africa stands out because it researches where the need is greatest and develops holistic programmes based on this research, meeting the needs of vulnerable children living in the most remote parts of Kenya and Tanzania.”

STARS Foundation

Ace Africa has been shortlisted and highly commended as one of three charities in the International Aid and Development Category alongside Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS) and Humanitas. The awards aim to identify and recognise the exceptional work undertaken by charities across the UK as well as their work in highlighting and disseminating best practice across the sector, so we are proud of our nomination.

Ace Africa – Highly Commended in The Charity Awards 2013

Ace Africa stands out because it researches where the need is greatest and develops holistic programmes based on this research, meeting the needs of vulnerable children living in the most remote parts of Kenya and Tanzania.

STARS Foundation
Ace AFRICA

KENYA

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Registered UK Charity: 1111283

Ace Africa Board Members

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John Collenette (Chairman and Treasurer), Chad Lion-Cachet, Christopher Rowse, Francis Howard, Marianne Hay, Mark Chamberlen, Pratik Chandaria, Kedge Martin

Ace Africa Tanzania
Alex Mnyangabe (Chairman), Freda Benedict, Ngugi Githinji, Patrick Mateni, Joanna Waddington

Ace Africa Kenya
George Okode (Chairman), Karen Veronica Owuor (Treasurer), Alveya Kassam, Alwyn Chepyagan, Dorothy Ongeso, George Okode, Karen Veronica Owuor, Peter Orengo, Mary Dorothy Mukhwana, Angeline Wambanda, Dr. Peter Umara, Dr. Aggrey Otieno Akula, Augustine Wåsongo

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