Our mission in Kenya and Tanzania

To enable children and their communities to participate in and take responsibility for their own health, wellbeing and development.

Together, we can unlock the potential of the most vulnerable children and families in East Africa.

Moshi District is just miles from the tourist mecca of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Research showed increasing rates of HIV/AIDS, a third of households living in poverty, high rates of malnutrition and 27% of girls experiencing sexual violence before the age of 18.

This is Yusuf Juma, farmer and Chair of Moshi Community Group. We worked with the group to confront the interwoven issues of food security, health and income. Ace set up a community banking scheme, provided business skills training, established a goat rearing and maize milling project, and taught improved agriculture techniques.

Today, the community manage all these projects. Of course we check in from time-to-time, but are proud of the fact that we are no longer needed.
In 2003 a handful of staff and volunteers reached 300 people in a small part of Western Kenya. Two decades on, Ace Africa’s work covers hundreds of square miles in Kenya and Tanzania. Our supporters have changed the lives of an incredible 2 million people.

How we work has not changed
Ace started its work in Bungoma, Western Kenya, where an HIV and AIDS epidemic was devastating local communities. We worked with government and communities to find long-term solutions to urgent health, social and economic problems. Research and evidence defined every intervention. Each project had to be locally led and sustainable.

Much has changed in 20 years, but our approach has not - because it works.

Why we are needed
Today we work in remote, rural locations, where poverty, food insecurity, sexual violence and high rates of HIV/AIDS are part of everyday life. Government services are limited or non-existent, and we are often the only NGO to be seen or heard.

Resilient, inclusive communities need food and economic security, improved health, their rights respected and access to education. When these needs are met families can cope better with whatever life brings – COVID, the war in Ukraine or climate change. Our staff and volunteers are part of the communities we serve. They know what will work, and what will not.

We don’t try to do it all
Ace does not stay forever. As local people take control of their lives we are no longer needed. And we don’t try to do it all because we understand the limits of what a small NGO can do. A central part of our daily work is raising awareness of government services, and helping improve their quality. To work together communities and government have to overcome divides – geographical and cultural. We can help because of the trust and goodwill we have earned over 20 years.

Personal and rewarding philanthropy
At Ace you are part of our team - of staff, volunteers and local communities. We believe giving should be personal and rewarding. George Freud has visited the health projects he supports, and on page 15 explains why Ace embodies what he thinks philanthropy should be.

Thank you George for your kind words. And thank you to each and every supporter of Ace Africa over the last 20 years.
Why work with Ace Africa?

Every single life changed is a reason to work with us. Here are five more.

1. **Africa-based, African-led**
   - The people closest to problems know how to solve them. Ace Africa staff and volunteers are part of the communities we serve. They are ready to change lives but need the resources to do it.

2. **Lasting change**
   - Change takes time. Our long-term approach is measured in years. As people are empowered to take control of their lives, we become less involved. Our legacy is resilient, inclusive communities. Your support leaves families with lasting change - reliable income, food security and safer children.

3. **Innovative and responsive**
   - Ace Africa was created to respond to the HIV and AIDS crisis in Western Kenya. Today our programmes address new challenges, including climate change and COVID-19. The most vulnerable are always hardest hit.

4. **Transparent and accountable**
   - Ace is transparent and honest – we learn from what works and what doesn’t. Ongoing assessment means we maximise our supporter’s impact. Research and evaluation are at the heart of our work.

5. **Personal and rewarding philanthropy**
   - You are part of a team - of staff, volunteers and local communities. Together we identify need, plan solutions and find the resources. Formal reports, videos, photographs and personal briefings tell you what your support has achieved. We make philanthropy personal and rewarding.

Last year, a single project in Siaya County Kenya helped 610 girls and young mothers access essential sexual/reproductive health information and services.

Reducing sexually transmitted diseases and allowing women to choose when to start a family.
Determined, resilient children and adults taking control of their lives.

Fighting the spread and stigma of HIV

The problem
Five per cent of Tanzania’s population live with HIV; women and girls account for 80% of new infections. Educating young people is the key to reducing infection rates and fighting the stigma of the disease.

What we did
Ace combined drama performances in schools with testing and new ‘youth empowerment groups’ to discuss and learn about HIV. These efforts helped reduce stigma, diagnose cases and support students who tested positive.

The impact
- 4,528 children and young people learnt about HIV/AIDS from drama performances, increasing their understanding of how to avoid the disease
- 1,028 tests took place, diagnosing 16 young people who received treatment and support
- 8 new youth empowerment clubs established

A student’s HIV diagnosis inspires her to help others
Amina, a 16 year old student, was approached by an older man, and offered money for unprotected sex. Ace Africa visited her school to educate students on HIV and sexual and reproductive health. Students were invited to have HIV blood tests. Amina tested positive.

She received counselling and was helped to access antiretroviral drugs. An Ace counsellor discussed with her how to live a positive, healthy life.

Today she is focused on her health and studies. She wants to finish her secondary school education, go to college and work as a minister. “I am glad I know my status, I want to study hard so I can inspire other young people to achieve their goals even if they are HIV positive. One day I will work in the government; not even HIV will stop me from reaching my goal.”

Stopping female genital mutilation (FGM)

The problem
FGM rates in Tanzania for women aged 15 to 49 are 10%, and 20% in Kenya. Rates are much higher in the remote rural areas where Ace Africa works. It is a breach of human rights and against the law in both countries. In later life it can cause ill health, complications in childbirth, and potentially the death of mother or child.

What we did
To improve the education, health and wellbeing of vulnerable children in Tanzania and Kenya, Ace Africa improved child protection structures. We trained 17 male and 23 female volunteers in gender-based violence and how to address cases of abuse. The volunteers became part of new Violence Against Women and Children (VAWAC) committees.

The impact
These committees addressed 348 reported cases of abuse; 324 were addressed locally and 24 referred to court. As intended, new cases will be addressed by these volunteers long after the project has ended.

Protecting others because no-one protected her
Sinyati is a 30-year-old, from a single parent family and underwent FGM as a young girl. She married a much older man when she was 14. This inspired her to become a member of a VAWAC committee and ensure young girls in her community do not experience what she did.

After joining the committee, Sinyati heard that local women were preparing an FGM ceremony for two young girls. She reported the case to the committee.

Before the FGM took place, the organisers were warned and told to report to the village office every two weeks, where members of the committee explained the law and rights of girls’ and women.

Sinyati identifies vulnerable girls and supports them. “I have had a lot of regrets in my life because no one stood up for me. I want to stand up for young girls so they can pursue their life dreams and goals.”
Transforming sexual and reproductive health

The need
Early pregnancy is a huge issue for girls and young women in Siaya County, a remote rural part of Western Kenya. In these communities, quality state health services are limited. Illegal abortions and unwanted pregnancies are common.

What we did
We worked to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education, and access to government services, for young women in Rachar and Kabong’ villages. The key part was training 24 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), local volunteers who understand the problems these women face.

CHVs ran SRH awareness session in churches, schools and homes, targeting young women aged 15-24. In these safe settings they were able to discuss the negative impact of cultural beliefs, and myths about birth control. Ace also worked to bridge a gap in cultural understandings between local government services and local communities. And we reached out to men and boys in the area to act as agents of change, particularly the young men providing cheap motorbike transport services.

The impact
- 10 local government nurses trained in dental health hygiene and practices
- 5 government and community dental health teams established at remote and rural health facilities, providing 3,280 people with dental hygiene services
- 100 community volunteers became hygiene mentors and advocates

A dental hygiene revolution

The need
Most people in Tanzania have limited access to dental care and rely on traditional healers or self-treatment. Rates of tooth decay are as high as 79% of 12-year-old olds. There are no accessible dental hygiene services in rural areas around Arusha, and most people are unaware of the importance of dental hygiene. The result, self-extraction, leads to chronic infection and in some cases death.

What we did
Ace Africa became the first non-profit to work with the Ministry of Health to improve dental health/hygiene services in rural facilities around Arusha. Local health staff were trained to provide better advice and services, and local volunteers were recruited to increase the awareness of dental hygiene in the community. The Ace Africa drama group developed a new public performance to share key messages in an accessible way.

The impact
- 11,500 women, children, youth and men learnt about dental hygiene through 24 drama events
- 500% increase in community members seeking and accessing dental health hygiene services at local health facilities – from 5 monthly prior to the project to 30
- 87% of those interviewed reported significantly better local dental hygiene and health services

Vegetables that grow long-term income

The problem
Seventy per cent of Kenyans are under 30. The financial turmoil caused by the war in Ukraine, COVID and climate change hit this group hard. Three of the interlinked problems they face include a lack of employment opportunities, financial difficulties, drug and alcohol abuse.

What we did
Working with 10 youth groups in Migori, Ace Africa and local government officials trained members how to improve yields and profits. For example, they identified the crops in highest demand – cabbage, okra and red onions – and researched high yield drought resistant varieties.

The young farmers were also taught how to protect crops from adverse weather and reduce loss after the harvest by producing dried vegetable products.

Participants invested in the project – Ace provided half the funding for the seeds and the farmers raised the rest.
Our impact over 20 years, 2003 – 2023
A small charity making a big difference

2,113,465 people supported by Ace
31,494 cases of child abuse reported and resolved
94,092 kitchen gardens established
203,942 tested for HIV
219,130 food secure (eating three nutritious meals a day)
27,985 volunteers trained to work in their communities
Like many of us, I have fundraised since I was a child because of personal experiences.

At school a friend’s epileptic fit inspired me to run marathons for Epilepsy Action. When I lost my grandfather to Alzheimer’s I supported the Alzheimer’s society. After a heart attack aged 21, I ran for the British Heart Foundation.

But I found myself questioning the impact of my donations. Automated letters thanking me didn’t tell me what my fundraising had done to help.

Finding a charity partner I trust

When I started my own company in 2021 I wanted to find a charity partner and to really understand the charity - who was behind it, have total trust in where the money was going and to see the difference it was making. My mum and one of Ace Africa’s founders, Joe Waddington, had been friends since nursery. So I dug deeper.

Ace Africa, its values and way of working, was everything I had been looking for. Together we developed a dental health project targeting remote communities outside Arusha in Tanzania. I visited six months later. Words can’t capture the emotions and experiences of my time with Ace.

Part of the community they serve

I knew Ace didn’t parachute into villages or towns, drop off supplies and leave. But what I didn’t expect was how they are an intrinsic part of the communities they serve, woven into the fabric of daily life. An outsider would not notice, but the people know that Ace is with them, an unwavering pillar of support, a reliable force people who don’t have much can count on.

Ace understands the needs and aspirations of communities. Together, in a spirit of hope and transformation, they uplift and empower individuals and families. Ace embodies what philanthropy should be - sincere, steadfast and deeply connected to those they serve.

I’m proud to now have donated over £50,000 to Ace, and have just returned from my second visit. Once again, it was a privilege to see the difference every penny makes to people’s lives. For me genuine giving isn’t a fleeting gesture, but a commitment.

George Freud,
Director Sayaah Ltd, sayaah.co.uk
For 20 years hundreds of people have raised money to make incredible things happen in Kenya and Tanzania. Thank you each and every one of you. Here are just three recent examples of kindness, determination and generosity.

Sarah Byatt. An inspiration.

Since 2003 hundreds of supporters have run marathons, climbed mountains, sold marmalade and played football for hours on end. The money they have raised transformed hundreds of thousands of lives in East Africa. We cannot thank them enough.

Sarah was one of these very special people. She passed on in October this year.

When she was living and working in Kenya, Sarah attended a presentation by our co-founder Joe Waddington. Soon after, she visited our projects in the remote, hard to reach parts of western Kenya. Sarah managed the bumps in the roads, and meeting orphans living in absolute poverty, with humility and humour.

From then on supporting the work of Ace Africa became a passion. Not only did Sarah fundraise, but she introduced Ace to friends and colleagues, inspiring them to support the work she believed in.

After returning to the UK, and her diagnosis with multiple sclerosis, Sarah continued to travel to East Africa. As travel became more challenging she found new ways to support the charity, adapting her wheelchair to cycle the equivalent of the London marathon - something she did four times, raising thousands in the process with the support of her wonderful friends and family.

Sarah’s extraordinary work as a fundraiser and advocate for Ace Africa raised hundreds of thousands of pounds.

And after being a unique and inspirational supporter over many, many years, Sarah is still helping. Her friends set up a JustGiving page to change more lives in her memory. If you’d like to donate please scan the QR code above or visit this link https://www.justgiving.com/page/sarahbyattfarewellfundraiser?utm_term=Vdk2qpyEK.

Thank you for everything Sarah, from everyone at Ace Africa.

Our fabulous Ace Africa fundraisers

7 cyclists x 100 miles = an amazing total

In 2022 challenge events began again after three years (because of COVID). A team of seven incredibly fit and determined cyclists took on the Prudential100 and raised £11,074. Our Patron Phil Howard was part of the team. A huge thank you to all the riders and your supporters.

A very ‘Big Give’

In 2022 we were chosen to be part of UK’s biggest on-line matched funding campaigns – the Big Give Christmas Challenge. For one week in December all donations were doubled. An incredible £21,000 was raised from individual supporters and our Big Give partner, to fund Ace School Clubs in Kenya and Tanzania.

Worth College footballers bang on target

Schools have raised thousands for Ace. Last year we were successfully put forward by George, son of lifelong supporter of Ace Africa Tara Melik, to be House Charity of the Year at Butler House at Worth College. An exhausting 12-hour 5-a-side football marathon and fundraising at the school Christmas fair raised a fantastic £961. Thanks also to Housemaster Bruce Morrison, who made all this possible.
It seems a very long time since we opened our first office in Bungoma, Western Kenya on 3rd September 2003. At that time, the HIV and AIDS epidemic was rampant, and considered the biggest health and social crisis to hit poor and vulnerable communities in Sub Saharan Africa. Starting on a shoestring budget, we helped people to rebuild their lives, improving their access to health, education, economic opportunities and food and nutrition. Now, two decades on we have supported over 2 million children, young people and their families across 12 districts and counties in Kenya and Tanzania.

Over the years, we have seen the transformation of individuals, families and whole communities. Driven by their needs, our projects address complex social issues at the core, and involve developing trust and respect with the community and partners. This has required Ace Africa’s wonderful local staff and volunteers to provide a unique longterm commitment to support - a household, a village, a school, a health facility, a community garden, a small business or village saving scheme and a district or region. Our simple, cost effective, locally led, tried and tested approach appears to work. Our Health, Livelihoods and Child programmes have evolved and adapted over time and continue to this day, as an integrated part of local government service provision and community life. As we hand over, we expand into neighbouring districts and counties ensuring the projects are adapted, adopted and sustained for the future.

Thank you for your wonderful, committed and loyal support, without which none of this would have been possible. Please help us to continue and expand our work to reach more marginalised communities, particularly women and children including those with disabilities in Kenya and Tanzania.

A mesage from Ace Africa’s founders

Joanna Waddington
MBE, Ace Africa Founder and Chair of Ace Africa Tanzania

Anthony Okoti, Ace Africa Founder and Ace Africa Kenya Country Director

Augustine Wasonga,
Ace Africa Founder, Ace Africa Kenya Director of Research and Training
Our Patrons

Phil Howard
Phil is one of the most influential and well respected chefs in the UK and has held two Michelin stars for over 17 years. He has run and ridden for Ace countless times, clocking hundreds of miles and raising thousands of pounds. Phil hosts events for Ace at his restaurant and generously donates incredible auction lots year after year.

“A charity which, as I have seen in Kenya, does exactly what it claims on the packet – the promotion of sustainable development to help alleviate poverty in African communities.”

André Villas-Boas
One of the most respected young football coaches in the world, André has been an incredible Patron of Ace since 2013; working tirelessly to raise awareness of Ace and funds. He has taken our logo to the trading floors of central London and the Peruvian sand dunes of the Dakar rally. André established Race for Good, a charity that uses the power of sport to raise funds for social causes like Ace Africa.

“Ace Africa stands out because it has a long term approach capable of leaving behind self-sufficient communities. They don’t rush their programmes and are very methodical in their approach.”

Liz Earle MBE
Liz Earle MBE is one of the best known names in the world of beauty and wellbeing. A bestselling author of over 30 books, TV presenter and brand founder of Liz Earle Wellbeing, amongst others. A committed advocate for social justice and sustainable change, and one of our longest serving supporters.

“On my visits to Ace Africa I have seen tangible change that transforms communities. Their technical support and expertise brings real benefits to very many lives, in a sustainable way that works in the long-term.”

706 Ace Africa School Clubs started, teaching over 300,000 children their rights and how to protect them.

Reducing child labour, sexual violence, early marriage and female genital mutilation.

Phil Howard
André Villas-Boas
Liz Earle MBE
Unlock the potential of children and families in the most vulnerable East Africa in 2024

Ace Africa’s supporters have delivered lasting change for over 2 million Kenyans and Tanzanians. Local government, schools and communities are asking for your help to continue to deliver tried and tested solutions to the problems they face.

Here are five of their priorities, and the difference you will make.

1. HIV and AIDS awareness, prevention and treatment
   Our award-winning community drama programme has raised the awareness of hundreds of thousands of people. We will put on more public performances, working in conjunction with local health authorities to increase testing of the disease. Local volunteers will be trained as counsellors to support those who are diagnosed and help link them to public services. The result - longer, healthier and more dignified lives.

2. Protect children and their rights
   Child led Ace School Clubs teach children their rights and how to protect them. We will set up new clubs (there is a massive waiting list) to reduce shocking levels of child labour, early marriage, physical and sexual abuse. And we will train more community based volunteers, who will work with local authorities to identify and address abuse in their communities.

3. Improve sexual and reproductive health and rights
   Information and access to services prevents sexually transmitted diseases, gender based violence and unwanted pregnancy – all now at record highs. We will educate more communities, individuals and groups (like sex workers) who are most at risk, and improve their access to government services. New community health volunteers can reach girls and women quickly; these volunteers know the people who need support and understand their challenges.

4. Small business and skills training, linked to savings & lending schemes
   New skills increase income and put food on the table. For women this provides economic independence that reduces domestic violence. For young people this can break the cycle of unemployment and drug dependency. We will set up new training programmes and provide on-going support for small business entrepreneurs and farmers. Savings and lending schemes will work in parallel to provide the funds that will power success.

5. Protecting the environment and fighting climate change
   Local ecosystems are at risk of destruction because of poor agricultural practices, overgrazing and tree felling. Tree planting programmes, environmentally friendly agriculture, eco stove distribution and education programmes can stop this. We will expand our work with farmers and communities to increase knowledge and change attitudes. Students - farmers of the future - will grow their own green spaces at school, learning how this preserves water, prevents soil erosion and reduces the CO2 that leads to climate change.
The money. Where it came from in 2022 and how it was raised

Ace Africa UK was created to raise funds for its two partners Ace Africa Kenya and Tanzania. In 2022 we raised money from trusts/foundations, major donors and countless individuals totaling £602,280 (£354,599 was restricted and unrestricted £247,681).

Volunteers play a key role in our fundraising, supported by our small team of professional staff. Our Patrons, trustees and the fantastic people who organise fundraising events – big and small - were at the heart of our success.

Ace Africa Kenya and Tanzania 2022

The work of our partners fits into three thematic areas. In 2022 their main focus was child development, representing 70% of expenditure.

Investing increases impact

To meet the needs of communities in East Africa, we must reliably fund all parts of Ace Africa, not just our projects. What kind of money we raise matters as much, if not more, than how much we raise. These are some of the costs we have to meet to be the resilient and reliable partner our donors expect:

- fundraising - professional staff to create and manage donor partnerships, hold fundraising activities and create fundraising/communications materials like this report.
- accountability - audit costs, annual accounts, meeting the compliance issues of donors, banks and charitable authorities, project monitoring and evaluation
- experienced and skilled senior managers and leaders in East Africa – individuals with invaluable experience and contacts, without whom our work is not possible and who are in high demand

How money is donated also matters. All charities appreciate long term, flexible funding and Ace Africa is no different. Social and economic issues in East Africa are deep rooted and hard to address. Applying every year to continue successful work is time consuming and costly for both donors and Ace Africa. It’s difficult to stop/start work. A donor’s systems and processes are of course defined by them, but we will always honestly explain their impact on our work and discuss how improvements might be made to benefit both partners.

Below is a quote from businessman and philanthropist Paddy Burrowes, who explains why he has supported the fundraising costs of Ace Africa UK in recent years.

I truly believe that by supporting the costs of UK fundraising I am enabling their partners in East Africa to increase their impact on the lives of children, families and communities. There is an absolute correlation between the quality of the fundraising operation - it’s people, it’s infrastructure, it’s reach, it’s efficiency – and the scale and power of what Ace Africa achieves every day in Tanzania and Kenya.

Paddy Burrowes
Ace Africa Kenya and Ace Africa Tanzania

Why we are needed

The poorest families and children in Kenya and Tanzania face poverty, food insecurity, sexual violence, lack access to education and many basic rights. In remote rural areas, government services are limited or do not exist.

Ace Africa KENYA

Working in Bungoma, Busia, Kisumu, Kakamega, Migori, Siaya and Vihiga counties in partnership with local partners, the government and community, Ace Africa Kenya has reached over 1,700,000 people directly and 4 million indirectly.

Our work is delivered by 26 staff and 11,664 community volunteers. Key staff: Country Director Anthony Okoti, Head of Finance Lynn Okelo, Programmes Coordinator Dansamson Owino and Director Research and Fundraising Augustine Wasonga.

For more information contact the Country Director okoti@ace-africa.org, or resources@ace-africa.org. Tel +254 (0) 771 370 266. Ace Africa Kenya, PO Box 1185, Bungoma 50200, Western Kenya. www.ace-africa.org/kenya

Ace Africa TANZANIA

Working in Arusha, Mwanza and Kilimanjaro regions in partnership with local partners, the government and community, Ace Africa Tanzania has reached over 500,000 people directly and 1 million indirectly.

Projects are delivered by 11 staff and 1,000 community volunteers. Key staff: Country Director John Emmanuel, Head of Finance Benedict Barnabus Masale, Head of Monitoring and Evaluation George Godwin.

For more information email the Country Director john.emanuel@ace-africa.org, info@ace-africa.org, Tel +255 (0) 789 354 142. PO Box 16416 Arusha, Tanzania. www.ace-africa.org/tanzania

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Ace Africa founder and Ace Africa Kenya Country Director, Anthony Okoti

Ace Africa Tanzania Country Director, John Emmanuel

Ace Africa Kenya staff have trained thousands of volunteers

Ace Africa Tanzania staff are part of the communities they serve

www.ace-africa.org

Follow us on

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With thanks to Patrick Drummond, Olivia Jarman, George Freud and Ace Africa staff for photography

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www.buranstudio.com
The people closest to problems know how to solve them.

Ace Africa staff and volunteers are part of the communities we serve. They are ready to change lives but need the resources to do it.

What your money can buy

- Seeds for one family to grow a variety of nutritious food: £10
- A thorn resistant football, for our innovative football/child rights project: £25
- Trains a Child Rights Committee member with the skills to help vulnerable children: £60
- The cost of 1 hard wearing tyre for cars that deliver staff and materials to remote, rural communities; they can drive up to 300km a day: £350

How to donate

Bank transfer
CAF Bank Ltd, Ace Africa UK, Sort code: 40-52-40, account number: 00017187

Online
www.ace-africa.org/donate

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

*Gift Aid gives Ace an extra 25p for every £1 you donate.* If you’re a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid increases the value of your charitable donations by 25 per cent at no cost to you - because we can reclaim the basic rate of tax on your gift.