



Together We Thrive

Despite the hardships of 2020, we have found hope in our work. We invite you to join as we reflect and celebrate the accomplishments of OneVillage Partners in 2020. We were able to do so much, and that is thanks to you.

We are so grateful for your unwavering support this past year. When we asked you to support our COVID-19 relief response in Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Community of Minnesota during the summer, you responded generously and with great encouragement. When we invited you to celebrate our 10th anniversary, you joined us in honoring how far we've come. And when we shared with you the accomplishments of our community partners, you applauded their resiliency. **Thank you for being such steadfast champions of our work.**

While the pandemic forced us to pause our programming for the safety of our staff and community partners, the trust we have established allowed us to effectively work alongside local government and other NGOs to provide COVID-19 relief to keep people healthy and safe. Our adaptability allowed us to jump right back to work as soon as lock-downs were lifted in Sierra Leone. We are happy to report that there have been zero reported cases of COVID-19 in our partner communities and proud of the 27,000 individuals that we reached last year, all of whom are catalysts of change for their communities.

The challenges of 2020 remind us that we are in a unique position to provide a platform for deeper engagement between local government and our community partners, and we are excited to expand on this platform in the coming year.

As an organization with roots in West Africa and in Minneapolis, we recognize the inherent interconnectedness of the colonial history of international aid and the need for racial equity in the United States. We are addressing these complex issues head-on with more intentional dialogue and expanded plans for diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have so much to learn

and unlearn, but we are committed to being better partners to those with whom we work.

We invite you to join us in this learning process as our organization continues to adapt in order to be better partners to our communities.

One of the significant changes of 2020 was a change to our Board of Directors leadership.

Our Founder, Jeff Hall, who has been the Board Chair since the organization's founding, transitioned the Board Chair position to Pete Janzen. This transition is important to building our organizational capacity and longevity. As the Founder of OneVillage Partners, Jeff will remain on the Board of Directors and continue raising awareness for the organization. We are excited to welcome Pete in his new role, and we look forward to his leadership.

While our work has always been community-led, last year confirmed our belief that placing decision making and power into the hands of local individuals and communities is what will bring transformational change for generations to come. With your help, we are committed to deepening our efforts to ensure community-led transformation. Thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to continuing to work together to catalyze community-led change in Sierra Leone in 2021.

Together, we pushed through 2020, and together, we will continue to thrive. We invite you to join us as we honor the work that has been done and look ahead to a bright future in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Jill LaLonde, Executive Director

Pete Janzen, Board Chair

Jeff Hall, Founder

Our Programs

OneVillage Partners' mission is to catalyze community-led transformation in Sierra Leone. We partner with rural communities to develop sustainable solutions to their most pressing self-identified challenges. Our programs empower volunteer-leaders to effectively address these challenges and create new opportunities for women's economic empowerment, with a particular focus on inclusive leadership, gender equity, social cohesion, and long-term resiliency.

Community Action

The Community Action program guides communities to assess and prioritize their challenges and define and achieve a shared vision for progress. A group of women and men volunteer-leaders are trained to design, implement, and monitor projects that promote the self-defined vision for their community. Volunteer-leaders attend training workshops led by OneVillage Partners, which use interactive tools, so learning is accessible to all community members regardless of their level of literacy. Community members implement up to three development projects, which improve the collective wellbeing of the community.

Nurturing Opportunities for Women (NOW)

The NOW program is a twophase program for women that strengthens household finances and improves business skills. NOW: Household Finances empowers participants with financial planning, decisionmaking, and public speaking skills. The curriculum is entirely picture-based, which makes learning accessible regardless of literacy abilities. At key points in the program, financial decision-making is discussed with husbands and male family members, with the aim of shifting beliefs about gender roles in the home and the community. NOW: Business Skills builds on skills learned in NOW: Household Finances with training on how to run a profitable business, increase profit, and confidently communicate business ideas.

Leadership Engagement and Development (Lead)

Lead was created with input and feedback from our partner communities as a continuation of the Community Action program. Lead further breaks down historical and cultural barriers to development within communities by giving them the tools to access funding directly, including training in project design, management, and proposal writing. Volunteerleaders use their training to work collaboratively with the community to identify a development project and write a proposal in a competitive bid for funding, awarded by OneVillage Partners. Chosen proposals are funded, and community members implement projects in collaboration with experts and local institutions. Lead creates civic engagement platforms for regional collaboration between communities and local government and results in sustainable, effective development.



BY THE NUMBERS

BY THE



27,000 **IMPACTED**



Community Action Projects

The communities who completed projects in the Community Action program last year selected projects to increase access to clean water and improve agricultural productivity.

NEW CLEAN WATER

ON WELL MAINTENANCE



IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES WITH RICE MILLING MACHINES

PEOPLE TRAINED ON FACILITY

FARMERS TRAINED ON IMPROVED

INCREASED FOOD SECURITY FOR

Nurturing Opportunities for Women Graduates

NOW: HOUSEHOLD FINANCES GRADUATES

97%

OF GRADUATES ACHIEVED THEIR PRIMARY **FINANCIAL GOAL**

101

NOW: BUSINESS SKILLS GRADUATES

OF GRADUATES UNDERSTAND HOW TO INCREASE PROFIT

Lead Pilot Projects

As the first communities to participate in Lead, Grima and Mamboma will complete their projects in early 2021. Their projects will increase access to quality healthcare and skills training for themselves and their surrounding communities.

REHABILITATED HEALTH CLINIC WITH CLEAN WATER AND ELECTRICITY 80 WOMEN TRAINED IN PRE-AND POST-NATAL CARE



IMPROVED TRAINING CENTER WITH CLEAN WATER AND ELECTRICITY

INCREASED ACCESS TO SKILLS TRAINING FOR

10,373



COVID-19 Response Activities

REHABILITATED COVID-19
QUARANTINE CENTER AT AN
AREA HOSPITAL ACCESSIBLE TO
ALL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
IN THE SURROUNDING AREA



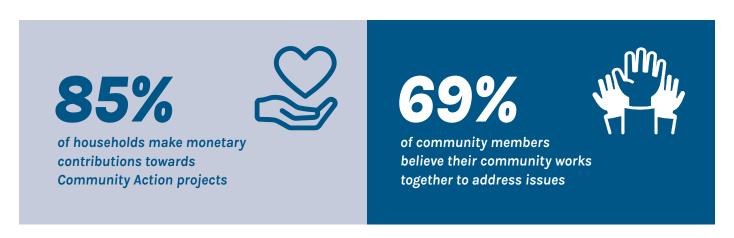




Above Image: NOW participants and their husbands discuss future planning for their homes and community

Social Cohesion

Through OneVillage Partners' holistic programming, we encourage community members to work together towards a shared vision of progress. Our programs build and promote collaboration within and across communities.



Achieving Bandajuma's Shared Vision

In Bandajuma, OneVillage Partners trained 12 volunteer-leaders on project planning, mobilization, and leadership. These volunteer-leaders successfully mobilized community members and skilled workers to construct an electrified agricultural facility that included a rice milling machine and a storage facility for hygienically keeping agricultural products. The community's vision was to see "Bandajuma with adequate food security and improved methods to process rice." As part of the project, 40 farmers were trained in improved farming techniques to increase yields, and ultimately, increase profits and provide families with more food. As a result of so many people from the community actively participating in the development of this project, the project itself was a success and the community's vision is being achieved.

Gender Equity

Sustainable development occurs when women are supported and empowered in the home and the community. When rigid gender roles become more flexible and equitable decision-making exists, whole communities can be engaged in the development process.

91%

increase in NOW participants' control of household financial decisions



87%

increase in NOW participants speaking in public to large groups





"I am now confident to run a business successfully with the new business skills I have acquired from the NOW learning. The culture of savings and budgeting saw me through my struggle, as it is the tool for my success. Through the NOW learning, I plead to other women to embrace change." -Hawa Saffa, NOW: Business Skills 2020 Graduate

Inclusive Leadership

Communities flourish when leaders are transparent, accountable, and inclusive of marginalized groups. When community members are equipped with leadership skills and power is shared, everyone reaps the benefits of development.



Advocating for Women's Health

Last year, Grima was one of the communities to participate in the Lead pilot program. The community identified inadequate healthcare for pregnant women as a challenge, so the Project Committee, a group of 12 dedicated men and women, set out to "improve the health of pregnant women in Grima and the [surrounding] communities." They applied for and were awarded funding from OneVillage Partners to rehabilitate the local healthcare clinic to improve healthcare services, especially for pregnant women. While Grima will complete their project in early 2021, they have already made tremendous progress. Some of their accomplishments include adding solar panels to provide electricity in the clinic, doubling the number of delivery room beds, and successfully advocating to upgrade the status of the clinic from a Maternal and Child Health Clinic to a Community Health Post. This means the government recognizes the facility as serving a larger population and therefore will provide more resources and more qualified trained staff. Already the project has been a success. Clinic attendance by pregnant women has increased and there has been a reduction in the number of cases transferred to larger hospitals.

Image Right: Grima's rehabilitated healthcare clinic will improve healthcare services for Grima and the surrounding communities







Above Image: A farmer in Bandajuma pours rice grain into a rice mill machine for processing

Resiliency

For communities to grow and thrive, they need to be able to respond to external shocks as they happen, such as loss of income, home damage, or illness. Our programs provide tools for resiliency so families, communities, and regional institutions can activate local capacity and resources for crisis response and proactive planning.

90%



of NOW participants report having an emergency savings fund after the program concluded 73%



reduction in diarrheal disease in communities with hygiene and sanitation projects



Above Image: Workers construct a platform for a water tank at the converted quarantine center at Nixon Memorial Hospital

Responding to Crisis Together

At the onset of the pandemic, we knew we needed to work swiftly with community and regional partners to mitigate possible outbreaks. Immediately, OneVillage Partners' staff trained volunteer-leaders in all 22 partner communities. Volunteer-leaders were educated on COVID-19 signs, symptoms, and prevention methods as well as guided to create their own plans for community-wide education. Knowing that the pandemic was bigger than the immediate areas we serve, we expanded this model to other communities in the region and trained over 800 volunteers on COVID-19 symptoms and prevention. In 2020, there were zero reported cases of COVID-19 in OneVillage Partners communities. In addition to trainings, we provided necessary supplies to communities and local quarantine centers, including hand washing buckets and soap, food, fuel, and face masks.

As part of our ongoing efforts to make existing regional systems more resilient, we partnered with the Kailahun District COVID Emergency Response Center to rehabilitate a section of the Nixon Memorial Hospital to act as a quarantine center. Prior to this project, there were insufficient accommodations and support networks in the region for those in quarantine. Now, there are 24 comfortable units located inside the hospital compound available to serve individuals in the surrounding area, including those in our partner communities.



A Single Woman's Dedication to Serve Other Women

This story was originally told by Mattu Vandi of Ngolahun

Translated from Mende and written by Nyagia M.S. Rogers, Community Action Program Supervisor and James Gendemeh, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Officer

Mattu Vandi is a 32-year-old volunteer teacher married with three children. At a young age of 16, economic hardship forced her to drop out of school. Despite this situation, she was determined to bring about change in her and her family's life. Before OneVillage Partners entered the community, Mattu had little knowledge about business and did not save or budget her resources. Additionally, she was never part of any group in the community and lacked the self-confidence to speak in public.

One morning, she noticed the Nurturing Opportunities for Women (NOW) training in the community. Though she was not enrolled in the program, Mattu listened in on the session the next day. This session moved Mattu so much that she thought of it for the rest of the day and so she visited an enrolled NOW participant, Yatta, that evening to learn more. After a week of coaching with Yatta, Mattu continued to listen in on the NOW sessions. One day, OneVillage Partners staff noticed Mattu listening in and encouraged her to attend the session. At first, Mattu was so shy that she could not even say her name out loud! But the sessions inspired Mattu to use her voice and knowledge to form a savings group for 25 women in the community, where group members could come together and contribute weekly to personal savings funds.

"I felt delighted about Mattu's intelligence and patience, and I was touched when she quickly grasped the NOW learning by forming two sets of savings groups," Yatta said.

The outcome of the first savings group stimulated interest from other women in the community, so Mattu formed a second savings group of an additional 30 members. Just from listening in on the NOW sessions and coaching from a friend, she was able to pass on the learning to 60 women in the community on goal setting, savings, and household planning. Through this experience, Mattu started working with fellow community women and therefore felt bolder and more confident to speak in public.

Women in these groups now embark on business and other income generating activities, such as backyard gardening, savings, and internal lending. "I now feel very excited when fellow women and other organizations come to me for ideas and solutions," Mattu stated.

Overcoming her struggles, Mattu is now a leader and a source of inspiration for many women in the community and beyond. As Mattu put it, "OVP's work has taught me a very big lesson, that speaking in public or interacting with other people within the society is not qualified by the level of one's education, but rather through dedication, commitment, and perseverance."

2020 Financials

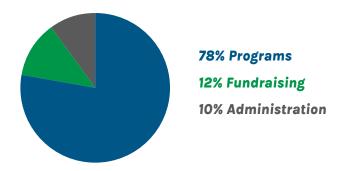
2020 Statement of Activities

Functional Expenses

Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$337,726
Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$174,053
Business Contributions	\$94,972
Other Contributions	\$59,853

Total Revenue \$666,604



Expenses

\$365,336
\$111,261
\$62,842
\$62,787
\$25,228
\$37,646
\$42,391

Total Expenses \$707,491
Net Income \$(40,887)

2020 was a challenging year for fundraising, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel in-person fundraising events, which historically have been large contributors to our annual revenue. However, despite the challenges, we are pleased that we were able to end the year in a strong cash position, with close to \$1M in net assets, and effectively mitigating our annual net loss by making changes early in 2020 in anticipation of a revenue loss.

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Brad Engelsma – Kraus Anderson

David Etzwiler – Siemens Foundation

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