



africabridge.org

VISION

Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) in East Africa living in extreme poverty have a brighter future and the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

MISSION

Africa Bridge engages with villagers and local leaders to develop sustainable socioeconomic solutions that help to protect and care for vulnerable children, lifting them and their communities out of extreme poverty.

WHO WE ARE

Africa Bridge is a nonprofit, rural economic development organization dedicated to improving the lives of the most vulnerable children and their caregivers. Our work helps guardian families help themselves and escape extreme poverty. We offer families and the vulnerable children they care for opportunities and a chance to achieve their dreams. We have had validated success for more than 20 years.

WHERE WE WORK

We change lives in remote villages in the southwest highlands of Tanzania where people are among the poorest in the world. Many live on less than one dollar a day, have an annual life expectancy of less than 50 years, subsist with basic farming, and often eat only one meal per day. Villages and farms are widely scattered, roads are mostly dirt and gravel and often impassable in the wet season, and electricity and piped water are rare. Literacy rates are low, malnutrition is common, and the HIV/AIDS infection rate is high. Many vulnerable children live with elderly grandparents or extended families, stretching already distressed incomes even further.

HOW WE WORK

Africa Bridge partners with the community. In Tanzania, three to six villages are organized into a Ward. We begin by seeking input from the Ward government to fully understand the greatest needs. We then run a Ward "Future Search," where we listen to vulnerable children first. We then listen to their caregivers, village leaders, and local government officials, and together we create a sustainable improvement plan.

OUR RESULTS

In 2021, Africa Bridge engaged the University of Texas and MarketShare Associates to conduct an independent impact analysis of our work. Key findings include:

- Families living in extreme poverty decreased from 75% to 46%
- Families experiencing food shortages dropped from 95% to 33%
- Home construction improved – the number of households using cement bricks rose from 4 to 85
- Home lighting increased from 7% to 45%, increasing kids' ability to study
- Livestock ownership increased by 300%

To date, six Wards, 37 villages, and over 10,000 Most Vulnerable Children have benefited from Africa Bridge efforts. Over 80% of cooperatives and MVC committees formed since 2008 still exist today.



OUR UNIQUE MODEL

SOCIAL



Most Vulnerable Children's Committees (MVCC)

Africa Bridge creates village MVCCs, which manage the co-op membership and identify the Most Vulnerable Children we will serve. Africa Bridge local staff train committee members in social services, life skills, and organizational management. This process builds local capacity and transfers skills directly to families.

MVCC members visit the children and their families regularly to provide psychosocial support and monitor their progress.

Education

Africa Bridge provides students with uniforms and supplies so they can attend school by making grants to the MVCCs.

Psychosocial and health support for children

The MVCC supports children's clubs which serve as gathering places and sources of education and support for children and their caregivers. Africa Bridge trains peer health educators to provide education on key health topics such as HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.

ECONOMIC



Income Generating Co-ops

Africa Bridge provides the seed capital to buy livestock and agricultural inputs, implements the operating procedures, and delivers ongoing training and business management.

Pass-On Model

A family caring for a Most Vulnerable Child receives a cow. The first calf is given to another family through the MVCC, doubling the number of cooperative members. This process continues to repeat, increasing members continually and creating many more families with higher incomes. Families owning a cow have milk and manure for their crops.

Graduation

After five years, the Ward graduates from Africa Bridge with the capacity to build future growth through our sustainable, regenerative process.

"In the past, we used to have only one meal per day, but now because of our dairy cow project, we have three meals. We get milk and exchange the milk for food from other villagers."

- Geoffrey Uswege Kamwela



SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES:

A gift to Africa Bridge means that children get the education that will help lift them, their families and their future children out of poverty.

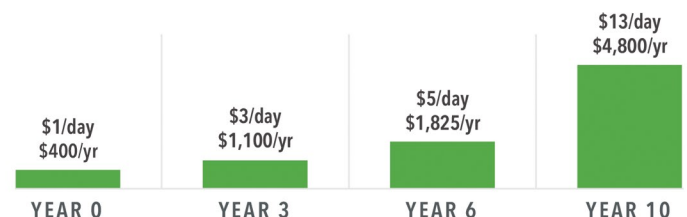
Family
\$1,500

Sub-Village
\$50,000

Village
\$200,000

Ward
\$1,000,000

INCREASE IN FAMILY INCOME



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