



**Grounds  
for Health™**

# ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020-21





## ***Best year yet!***

While everyone in the world of global health rightly questioned where resources should go during the pandemic, we strongly believe that women should not be allowed to die from a preventable disease in the meantime. While taking the safety of our staff and patients into account, we have stood by our mission and our impact continues to grow - and grow a lot! In the past year our staff and the local providers in our programs in Ethiopia and Kenya saw almost 23,000 women for screening of whom just under 2,000 received treatment. This represents the most productive year that Grounds for Health (GfH) has had in our past 25 years. At the same time, our strong relationships in the community have given us the opportunity to correct misinformation about Covid 19 while modeling and providing education around safe practices such as masking and social distancing.

We have adapted to the strains of the pandemic by increasing the frequency of our screen and treat campaigns while decreasing their size to take social distancing into account. This has proven to expand interest and momentum within each individual community. Coupled with a geographic expansion that occurred prior to the pandemic, we are proud to report that women in the communities where we work have not lost their opportunity to prevent cervical cancer during a time when health care resources have been largely redirected to where they are needed most in the short term.

While we were screening and treating record numbers of women, we started preparations and planning for the introduction of HPV self-sampling to Ethiopia and Kenya. Our goal is to make 2022 the year that women can test themselves by using HPV self-testing. More women will be reached in rural areas, with the least access to health care, using the highest quality screening technology that will grant them improved privacy, autonomy, and dignity.

## ***Looking Ahead***

Before implementing programs that use new technologies, key stakeholders must be engaged and supportive of the change. Because we work within the public health system, this support has been critical, not only to the success of our programs, but to our ultimate goal of gaining increased financial support from federal health administrators for cervical cancer prevention programs using HPV testing.

Clinicians, lab personnel, community leaders and health promoters will need training and education on HPV self-sampling. Equipment must be procured, and training and advocacy materials produced. Customized software will be developed for electronic data collection that will help determine the most effective approach to program implementation.

The future is here. We believe that women everywhere deserve access to life-saving health care services, and we plan to show the world how we can help end cervical cancer once and for all.

**Ellen Starr**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# ETHIOPIA

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16,936 Women Screened  
1,422 Women Treated

- In Ethiopia, the Federal Ministry of Health updated its guidelines to incorporate both Thermal Ablation and HPV Testing into its national strategy for cervical cancer prevention which opened the doors for the integration of these new technologies into our programs.
- The conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia escalated as the year progressed and needed to be monitored closely. Fortunately, our programs are to the south of Addis Ababa and thus aren't directly impacted. Nevertheless, between the conflict and the pandemic, it has been a challenging year for Ethiopians.
- Through funding from The Starbucks Foundation, we have identified six Centers of Excellence in the three Regional States where we work - Oromia, Sidama, and SNNP.
- These health facilities are used as demonstration and training sites for new approaches to screening and treatment approaches. Upgrading of our programming approach through the introduction of Centers of Excellence and new technologies is expected to improve the efficiency, efficacy, and sustainability of our programs.

**There are nearly 26 million Ethiopian women who are over the age of 15 and believed to be at risk of getting HPV.**

College of Health Sciences and Medicine, Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia, 2022

# KENYA

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6,028 Women Screened  
537 Women Treated



**In Kenya,  
only 1 in 10 women  
have been screened for  
cervical cancer in the  
last 5 years.**

WHO, 2021

- In FY 20-21 the training of 28 healthcare providers and 42 community health volunteers and supervisors allowed for the expansion of cervical services in the 12 health facilities in Nyeri County. Our collaboration with the County Health Department greatly facilitated the adoption of our training materials for utilization country wide.
- As part of our initiative to bring self-sampling to women living and working in the coffeelands, we welcomed a new institutional funder, the Prevent Cancer Foundation, which granted \$75,000 towards our work in Nyeri County Kenya. This grant is evidence that we are part of the groundswell of international public health support for this screening innovation.
- Our project, “Successful Implementation of HPV Self-Sampling in Kenya”, will introduce training in the use of HPV self-sampling, the gold standard of care, and will prepare GfH trainees to bring this superior technological innovation into their communities. This opportunity represents a striking advance in the quality of care provided in communities which traditionally lag behind in innovations and services.

# FINANCIALS

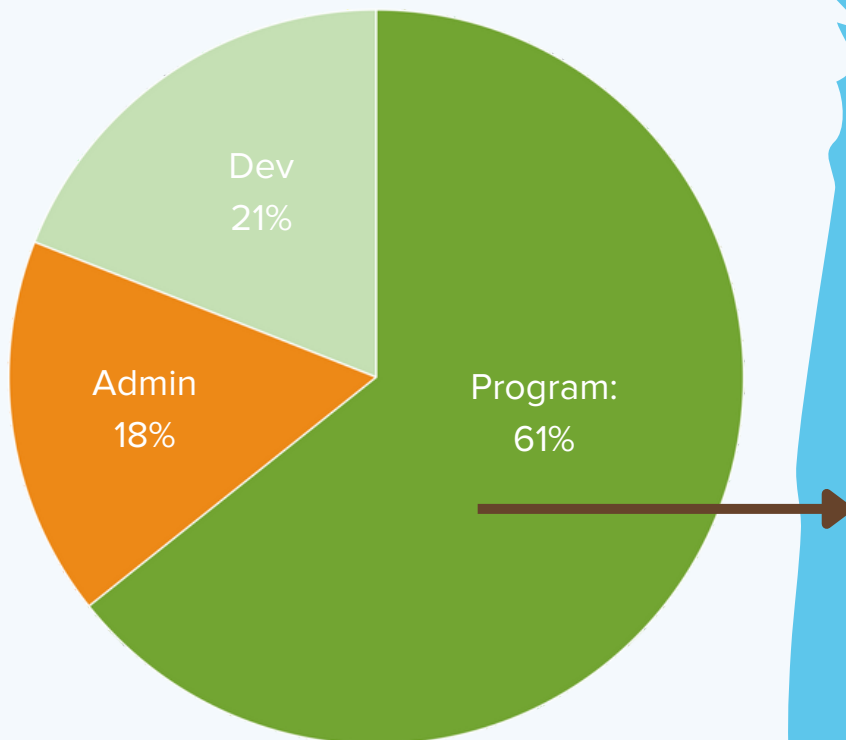
## Income

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Donations       | 545,028   |
| Auction         | \$42,705  |
| Subtotal Cash   | \$587,733 |
| In-Kind Gifts   | \$75,969  |
| Total Donations | \$633,702 |

## Expenses

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Program        | \$414,180 |
| Development    | \$143,046 |
| Administration | \$116,271 |
| Total          | \$673,497 |

*Expenses include in-kind.*



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Grounds  
for Health™

**Saving women's lives in the coffeelands since 1996.**



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