



All of us together



soteni

**2021-2022
Annual Report**

Our Mission

SOTENI means *"All of us together."*

Nearly 20 years since our founding in 2003, we still believe in working together to affect change and respond to emerging needs. In 2022, our International and Kenya Boards gathered data from stakeholders and conducted several strategic planning sessions to set goals for our future.

Together, we envision a future where vulnerable communities are empowered, healthy, and prosperous. In Kenya and Eswatini, this vision bolsters our efforts to mitigate the effects of disease with sustainable, income-generating programs and the economic empowerment of women. These strategic planning sessions are just beginning to bear fruit, so stay tuned for more! We look forward to many more years of partnership and positive impact.



Our Programs



AIDS BAREFOOT DOCTORS

The AIDS Barefoot Doctors program enables community health workers to provide home-based care, group therapy, and education to people living with HIV/AIDS.



CLEAN WATER

In partnership with P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program, our AIDS Barefoot Doctors provide access to safe drinking water to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Villages of Hope are communities in which SOTENI delivers need-based programming, such as health clinics, community centers, and income-generating activities.



SWAZI SHEROES

Swazi SHEROES is a holistic economic empowerment program for women and girls living in Eswatini who are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Founder's Message

Do you remember that the "I" in SOTENI stands for Interdependence? 20 years ago, as a small group of Kenyans and Americans brainstormed how we could make an impact among the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, we recognized that all of us are connected, and only through working together would we thwart HIV/AIDS. All of us need others to survive.

All of us need each other to thrive. Infinite thanks to SOTENI's Village of Volunteers. Caroline Phelps, our amazing new Director, began her leadership with strength, thanks to the Village that kept SOTENI running. My heart overflows with gratitude. I am because you are.

Victoria Wells Wulsin, MD DPH



Introducing the SOTENI International Executive Director

I am so very honored to be part of SOTENI's important, community-based work in Kenya and Eswatini. My professional background includes a decade of work for international nonprofit organizations in development, project management, and grant administration. Most recently, I worked for an organization aiming to break the cycle of poverty in Guatemala through education. I am also finishing a master's degree from Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. In my spare time I enjoy baking, traveling, and good books. I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome I have received so far and look forward to getting to know SOTENI supporters around the world. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me any time at caroline.phelps@soteni.org.

Caroline Phelps

A Message from SOTENI International

We are delighted to share this year's Annual Report with you which captures the essence of SOTENI, "All of us together." We've had a successful year and are pleased to report that our new executive director for SOTENI International, Caroline Phelps, will now lead our expansion and growth efforts in the years to come. Welcome aboard, Caroline!

This year, our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters helped us stay true to our mission of preventing the effects of diseases, including COVID-19. SOTENI International and SOTENI Kenya held several joint meetings to formulate a new strategic plan. Board members and staff toured our Villages of Hope to help nurture our relationship with our beneficiaries. The grant from the International Foundation enabled us to integrate technology in the Villages. Our Swazi SHEROES program, designed to combat HIV/AIDS through the economic empowerment of women, has continued to flourish.

We seek your support to bring the best quality health services and socio-economic support to people living with infectious diseases in Africa. Thank you for all that you do!

Hema Krishnan, Ph.D., SI Board Chair

A Message from SOTENI Kenya

SOTENI Kenya, its Board of Trustees and Staff for 2022 have never been better. Due to COVID-19 and the technological leaps necessary to maintain and accelerate operations using Zoom Communications, the level of cooperation between our former, resourceful Executive Director of SOTENI International, Jenny Brady, and our dedicated International Board Chairwoman, Dr. Hema Krishnan, our SK Board of Directors and staff became virtually seamless.

For the first time in our almost 17-year history, SI and SK integrated and worked in tandem on many team efforts. The Strategic Planning project was enhanced by having insight of local perspectives from Kenyan leaders and staff in our mutual work; “we are all one together.”

There are exciting days ahead for SOTENI Kenya. Some projects you will want to know more about:

1

New COVID-19 vaccination site at our Mbakalo medical clinic, including new freezers for the vaccines donated by SI Board Member Dr. Ellen Bowman

2

Upgrades to our Mbakalo Dispensary to qualify for Kenyan funding

3

A girls' health project, partnering with the Kenyan NGO HEART for secondary school at Mituntu Village of Hope

On the governance side, we have a new Board Chair at SI, and SK. And SK now welcomes our new Executive Director, Ms. Caroline Phelps, who has hit the ground running.

As travel begins to open, I hope that each contributor will consider a journey to Kenya and increase your gift support in this challenging and exciting period. I leave SOTENI Kenya only for now, “knowing there is still much more to be done.”

Judge Tyrone Yates, SOTENI Kenya Board Chair



Partner Highlights

P&G CHILDREN'S SAFE DRINKING WATER

Since 2010, the P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program enabled SOTENI's AIDS Barefoot Doctors to provide clean water to the nearly 3,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families in our Villages. Clean water reduces water borne illnesses and improves health and quality of life. This partnership is transitioning our communities to longer-term, sustainable water solutions, so stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!



17,000

Family members benefited from access to clean drinking water

2,908

Individual clients received access to clean drinking water

843,412

Sachets distributed in 2022

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

The implementation of the SOTENI Village Health and Wealth Project, generously funded by a grant from the International Foundation, was a highlight of the year. This project aims to improve quality of life and healthcare for some of Kenya's most isolated and poverty-stricken regions, where resources are scarce and access to healthcare is extremely limited. To accomplish these goals, SOTENI recruited specialists to provide AIDS Barefoot Doctors (ABDs) with further training in women's health and general health. With their new skills, they have been able to expand their outreach to address the high rates of teen pregnancy and emergent health crises such as COVID-19 in the context of extreme poverty. The SOTENI Village Health and Wealth Project also bolsters the success of support groups with an income-generating component. ABDs were trained in tactics for starting women-led businesses that will provide critical skills and generate income for some 3,000 of the most vulnerable members of the community—those living with HIV/AIDS.



Village of Hope UGUNJA

Thanks to the support of SOTENI International and SOTENI Kenya over the past 11 years, SVH Ugunja has been able to serve several HIV Support Groups, with AIDS Barefoot Doctors (ABDs) conducting monthly health education sessions. Session topics range from drug adherence, group and time management, COVID-19 prevention, nutrition, water treatment procedures, sanitation, and hygiene. ABDs also provide condoms to group members and demonstrate condom use and disposal. Apart from health education sessions, ABDs distribute P&G water purification packets to clients every month.

ABDs are much appreciated by the community. SVH Ugunja ABDs have bravely traveled to visit clients during these difficult times, ensuring that they have sufficient P&G water purification packets and condoms. Other challenges and learnings we faced this year included adjusting our service delivery strategy. We realized that emergency funds were needed to ensure that our client's emerging needs could be met and to prepare for future pandemics and outbreaks. Community members rely heavily on SVH Ugunja given the success of past public health projects.

Calvin Aloo, SVH Ugunja Coordinator



404,422	P&G sachets distributed
4,872	Condoms distributed
585	Clients served cumulatively
788	Women served cumulatively
129	Men served cumulatively
66	HIV support groups served
8	Staff virtually trained on COVID-19

Serving a growing number of support groups each year.



Village of Hope **MBAKALO**

SOTENI clinical team served over 2,556 patients across all departments:

1,939 patients from our outpatient department

107 maternity clients served

510 children participated in the Child Welfare (vaccination) Clinic



286,942 P&G water purification packets were distributed across Bungoma North Sub-County

An average of **641 clients per month** were served in **60 Support Groups**

AIDS Barefoot Doctors were **trained on mental health and resource mobilization** in 2021, enabling Support Groups to recommend resources.

SVH Mbakalo dispensary was awarded special self-help funds from the US Embassy to upgrade its maternity and laboratory clinic equipment. This project expanded the clinic's medical services. The clinic's credentials were further boosted with its laboratory registration by the Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologist Board.

Special thanks to Christian Health Association of Kenya for facilitating medical trainings for our clinical staff. CHAK donated dust coats for clinical staff and over \$15,000 worth of medicines. We also received additional medical equipment from Missions for Essentials Drugs and Supplies via our long-standing partnership.

We would also like to recognize and acknowledge Dr. Ellen Bowman and Dr. Hema Krishnan for their generous gift which led to the establishment of the clinic's COVID-19 Vaccination Centre, which started operations on January 26, 2022. To date, over 1,500 community members have been fully vaccinated at the clinic and more are being educated on COVID-19 prevention through the outreach program.

Special thanks to Dr. Victoria Wulsin for her continued support and commitment to enabling SVH Mbakalo to serve the community.

*Raphael Barasa
SVH Mbakalo Coordinator*

Village of Hope MITUNTU

5,892 clients gained access to clean water through the P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program

123,142 P&G water purification packets distributed across Tigania West Sub-County

An average of **491 clients per month** were served in **48 support groups**

AIDS Barefoot Doctors were **trained on mental health and resource mobilization** in 2021, enabling Support Groups to recommend resources.



1

SVH Mituntu would like to express its appreciation to Friends of Kianjai for the partnership. More than 50 students have benefited from the program this year.

2

Special thanks to Dr. Victoria Wulsin for her continued support, especially on education matters. We've provided access to education for over 200 students.

3

We'd also like to acknowledge Dr. Ellen Bowman for her generous donation, which has made the Freedom for Girls project a success. Access to feminine hygiene products has helped reduce cases of school absenteeism.

4

Finally, we would like to recognize the efforts made by SOTENI Kenya and SOTENI International in providing our ABDs with smartphones. This new technology has made communication much more efficient.

Cliff Muthethia, SVH Mituntu Coordinator

The Freedom for Girls Project, conducted in partnership with Dr. Ellen Bowman and HEART Africa, has provided vulnerable, adolescent girls at Mituntu Mixed Day Secondary School with a year's supply of sanitary pads, undergarments, and menstrual hygiene education. The school management and students greatly appreciated the supplies and training.

A Message from Swazi SHEROES

Swazi SHEROES has made great strides over the past year. Despite COVID-19 restrictions and political unrest in Eswatini, we've made tremendous progress in establishing income generating activities for vulnerable young women. Using our new production space, participants have created lines of handbags, clutches, children's clothing,

and throw pillows. They have sold their items at local craft fairs and have begun marketing them in the U.S. In addition, SHEROES has provided wrap-around mental health and career support services, offering hope and encouragement to young women otherwise struggling with depression and loss. Swazi SHEROES transforms lives.

Steve Driehaus, Co-Founder & Swazi SHEROES Advisory Board Chair



A Message from the SOTENI Kenya Program Director

A wise man once said, "only one thing is certain: change." This has been a year of transition, which means a lot of changes took place. 2021 ushered in a slow but steady transition from COVID-19 restrictions to the resumption of "normal" operations. Kenya is very proud to have contributed to the fight against the pandemic by setting up a vaccination center at the clinic in SOTENI Village of Hope-Mbakalo, made possible by the generous giving of donors.

This year has also seen the adoption of new technology that has transformed field data collection. Thanks to a grant from the International Foundation, 17 AIDS Barefoot Doctors are collecting and reporting data in real-time through their phones using an app called CommCare.

In collaboration with SOTENI International,

we designed a plan to transition community members from using P&G sachets to more sustainable, long-term clean water solutions. Stay tuned for more information in the near future!

In October, I had to say goodbye to my colleague and friend, Jenny Brady. Jenny's confidence in taking on a challenge was admirable. On behalf of the SOTENI Kenya management team, we would like to say "thank you" for your service and friendship. At the same time, we appreciate and welcome Caroline Phelps to the team and assure her that she has our full support. KARIBU SANA.

I want to acknowledge and thank all SOTENI donors who have continuously supported the organization. God bless you and thank you. ASANTE SANA!

Noreen Obilo

Financials

April 1, 2021–March 31, 2022

SOTENI INTERNATIONAL

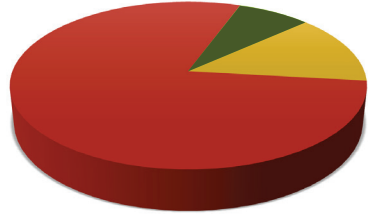
Together We Raised: \$485,814



Gifts, Grants & Contributions for Programs/Operations in Kenya & US: \$427,914

Fundraising Events: \$57,900

Total Expenses: \$296,646



Programs: \$233,540

Fundraising: \$22,960

Management: \$40,126



SOTENI KENYA

Total Revenue: \$210,517

Grants: \$210,517

Total Expenses: \$200,770

Administrative: \$72,907

Programs: \$127,864



SWAZI SHEROES

Total Revenue: \$7,156

Grants: \$7,156

Total Expenses: \$20,192

Administrative: \$759

Programs: \$19,433



The best way to empower those in need is to strengthen their communities, and, in turn, the communities empower the people.



Due to your loyal support, the 2021-2022 Annual Campaign was a great success. We raised over \$60,000!

SOTENI International Pledge Donor program continues to assure we're making a difference into 2022. Since 2019, our donors have provided a constant source of support. Thank you to all SOTENI Pledge Donors for fulfilling your commitments! Please consider formally renewing.



SOTENI International received a \$25,000 International Foundation grant. The grant represents the first fruits of a renewed strategic commitment to grant applications.

SOTENI International invested a record-breaking amount into this year's programs and communities. With your continued support, we look forward to expanding our impact.



SOTENI Leadership Team

SOTENI INTERNATIONAL BOARD

Hema Krishnan, *Chair*
 Dr. Victoria Wells Wulsin, *Vice Chair*
 Bryan McCleary, *Secretary*
 Tim Shea, *Treasurer*
 Dr. Ellen Bowman
 Ashley Clonchmore
 Lynn Deasy
 Steve Driehaus
 Daniel Odipo
 Andrea Schaaf
 Immaculate Wanyonyi
 Tyrone K. Yates

SOTENI KENYA BOARD

Tyrone K. Yates, *Chair*
 Boaz Chimasia, *Treasurer*
 Noreen Obilo, *Secretary Ex Officio*
 Kathleen Burlew
 Ann Ichungwa
 Waihiga Muturi
 Lynnette Njeri Mugai
 Dr. Churchill Saoke
 Gilbert Wangalwa
 Dr. Consolata Mureithi
 Immaculate Wanyonyi
 Dr. Victoria Wells Wulsin

SOTENI LEAD STAFF

Caroline Phelps, *Cincinnati*
Executive Director
 Noreen Obilo, *Nairobi*
Program Director
 Luke Baraza, *Nairobi*
Program Manager
 Peter Kihuria, *Nairobi*
Business Consultant
 Calvin Aloo, *Ugunja*
Village of Hope Coordinator
 Raphael Barasa, *Mbakalo*
Village of Hope Coordinator
 Cliff Muthethia, *Mituntu*
Village of Hope Coordinator

SWAZI SHEROES ADVISORY BOARD

Steve Driehaus, *Co-Founder*
 Melanie Heston-Dlamini, *Co-Founder*
 Zandile Nhleko, *Co-Founder*
 Fatima Ba
 Jenny Brady
 Kathleen Burlew
 Clara Matonhodze Strode
 Toyia Montgomery
 Fatimata Ndiaye
 Elizabeth Nguyen
 Lizzie Ngwenya-Scoburgh
 Swazi Nkosi
 Karen Smith
 Adelyn Stroup
 Sallie Westheimer
 Peter Williams



Become part of our village...



MAKE A GIFT

Our collective efforts for global health are more important than ever! Your gift will directly support our programs mitigating HIV/AIDS and COVID-19.

Visit soteni.org/donate today!

GET INVOLVED

Be part of our growth and outreach by visiting soteni.org/get-involved.

 www.facebook.com/soteni

 [@soteni_international](https://www.instagram.com/soteni_international)

 www.twitter.com/soteni



Together, we envision a future where vulnerable communities are empowered, healthy, and prosperous. Your support makes us part of the same village, united in a common vision and cause.



225

Donors helped sustain the programs and meet operation expenses between 2020-2021