

GIVING REPORT 2024



WORLD
CENTRIC
FOR A BETTER WORLD



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World Centric

For over 20 years, World Centric has been a leader in compostable foodservice packaging, committed to doing business differently. While we operate as a for-profit company, our heart beats with nonprofit values, with every decision reflecting our dedication to sustainability and environmental responsibility. We prioritize purpose by giving 25% of our profits to grassroots initiatives that empower communities and drive positive change for a better world.

Supporting Social and Environmental Change

Each year, we give at least 25% of our profits to grassroots organizations around the world. See [pages 3-6](#) to learn more about how we give and where we give. We focus our giving on programs that empower communities and drive positive change — whether this starts from basic needs, or contributes to broader systems changes.

Reducing Waste

At World Centric, we make plant-based compostable foodservice and packaging products to replace petroleum-derived plastics and expanded polystyrene. See [our catalog](#) to learn more about our compostable product line. Ideally, we would like to see a world where reusables are the standard. However, within the current paradigm, where trillions of single-use service products are used every year, we see compostable products as a sustainable alternative and necessary bridge to a more sustainable future.

Encouraging Fair Labor Practices

We regularly audit our suppliers under Fair Labor Association guidelines to ensure fair wages and working conditions. Each year, we give a percentage of our profits back to our extended supply chain, providing bonuses to our suppliers and factory workers. See our [Sustainability Report](#) to learn more about our initiatives and innovations, which demonstrate our continued commitment to minimize our impact on the environment and ensure fair labor practices.



Photo: World Centric



Photo: Raising the Village

INTRODUCTION

Since our beginnings in 2004, World Centric has existed to serve people and the planet. Our giving program is rooted in a simple yet urgent purpose: to address the interconnected crises of extreme poverty and environmental degradation. These challenges disproportionately impact vulnerable communities and threaten the health of our planet. We believe that creating a sustainable future requires bold action to reduce inequality and protect the environment.

Achieving this future is impossible without addressing the systemic barriers faced by women and girls. Women are at the forefront of efforts to combat poverty and environmental harm, yet they continue to face major challenges. Investing in women is essential for driving the transformative change the world needs. Learn more about our commitment to gender equity starting on [page 16](#).

This year the Giving Program supported our largest number of nonprofits and programs to date. We funded 60 organizations through our Giving initiatives and an additional 35 through employee matched donations. For Impact Grants, the largest of our Giving initiatives, we continued support for 18 organizations and were excited to welcome 1 new partner, FVS-Amie des enfants in Burundi (see [page 9](#)). It's an honor to support and be a part of these organizations' impactful efforts around the world and to celebrate them in this report.

This report covers grants and donations dispersed during fiscal year 2024 (FY24), from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.



Photo: Amazon Frontlines

OUR GIVING

Our Giving Program is central to what we do and why we do it. Each year, we give a minimum of 25% of our net profits to organizations around the world that empower communities and drive positive social and environmental change:

- **Impact grants:** Partnering with grassroots organizations that address extreme poverty and environmental change by meeting basic needs, restoring ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development.
- **Staff giving:** Empowering employees to engage in our giving by selecting nonprofits for funding.
- **Regional giving:** Partnering with U.S. nonprofits to reduce food waste, combat plastic pollution, promote composting, and advance equity in foodservice.
- **In-kind product donations:** Providing World Centric products to nonprofits in the USA advancing social and environmental justice.
- **Employee donation matching:** Matching employees' personal donations to amplify their impact and foster a deeper connection to the causes they care about.

[Learn more about how we fund.](#)

CARBON GIVING

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. It's largely impacted by carbon emissions linked to consumerism in the Global North. At World Centric, we measure our corporate carbon footprint, work to lower the carbon emissions that come from our operations, and invest in long-term solutions to reduce and sequester carbon through our Carbon Giving. Carbon Giving is not an individual program, but rather cuts across all of our giving, inclusive of all funding to projects and programs focused on carbon reduction and sequestration. Learn more about how World Centric mitigates its carbon footprint in our [FY23 Carbon Accounting Report](#).



\$17,980,765
given since 2009

Total amount given from fiscal years 2009-2023

FY24 GIVING AT A GLANCE

MISCELLANEOUS*
(3.8%)

STAFF GIVING
(6.2%)

**IN-KIND
PRODUCT
DONATIONS**
(7.3%)

**REGIONAL
GIVING** (2.4%)

**EMPLOYEE
DONATION
MATCHING**
(1.0%)

IMPACT GRANTS
(79.3%)



Photo: Raising the Village

WHERE OUR PARTNERS WORK

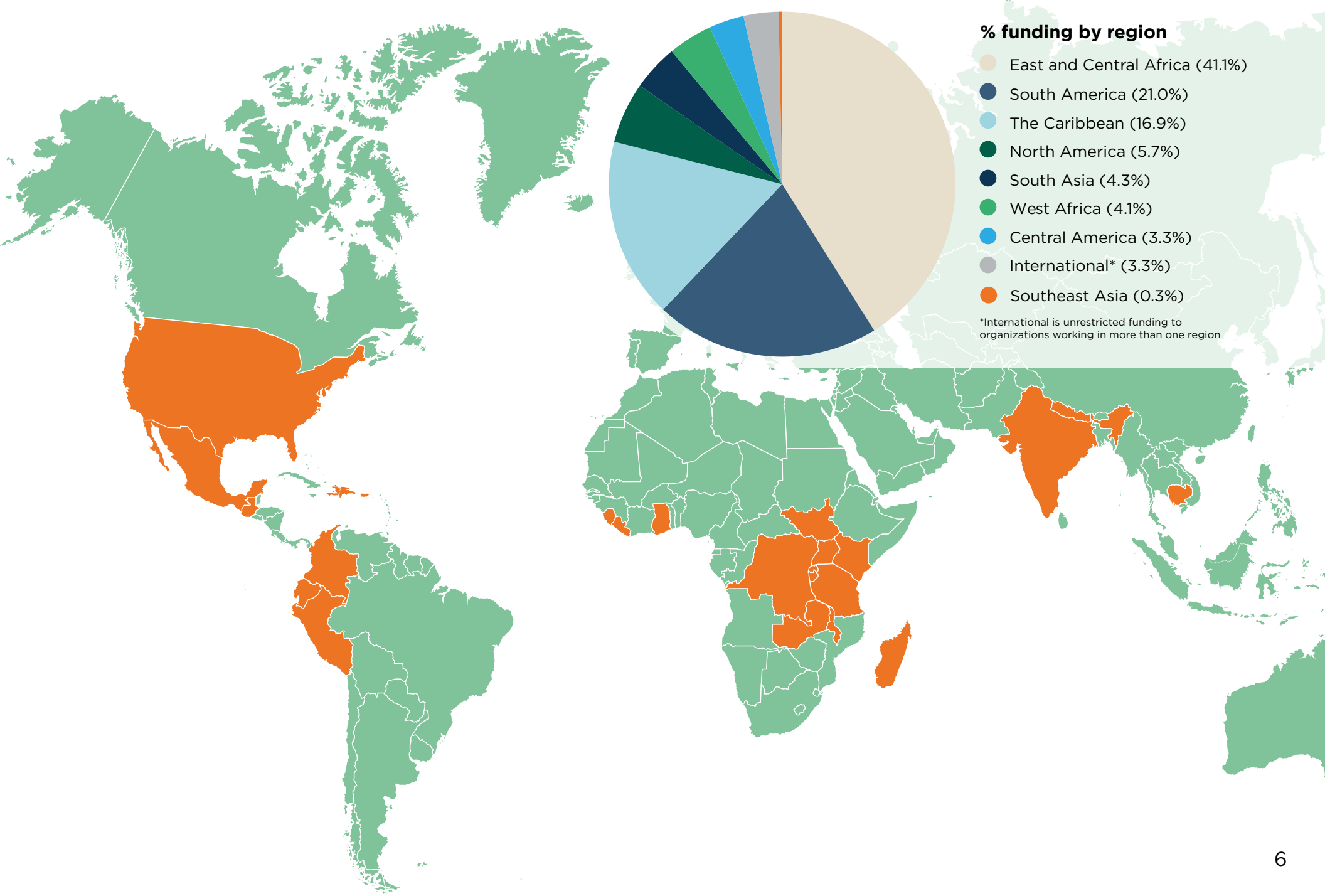


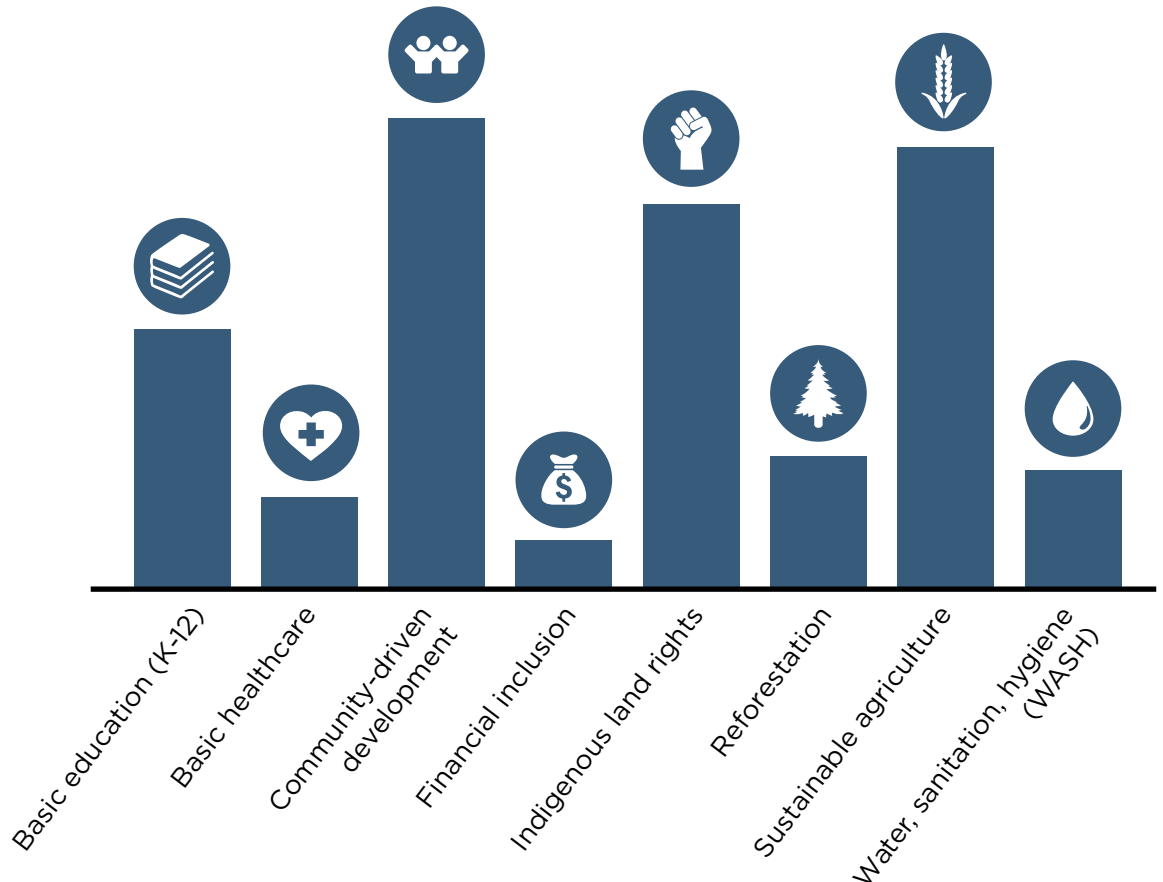


Photo: ALIADOS

IMPACT GRANTS

Our impact grants support communities facing extreme poverty and environmental degradation. We believe that poverty reduction cannot be addressed sustainably without utilizing a multi-dimensional approach; removing immediate barriers to improve livelihoods while building local capacity for communities to thrive. We partner with organizations implementing data-driven interventions. Our funding supports a diverse range of programs across eight focus areas.

Proportion of funds distributed across each focus area



OUR IMPACT GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

160,750
PEOPLE
SUPPORTED



268,726
TREES
PLANTED



195,179
ACRES
PROTECTED





Photo: ACADES

OUR IMPACT GRANT PARTNERS

ACADES



Funded since: 2023
Cumulative funding: \$75,255

Small-scale farming is feeding the African continent but less than 1% of formal lending goes to farmers. ACADES invests in small-scale farmers in rural Malawi to create economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. They provide skill development, inputs financing, and access to markets.

What we funded: Training and agricultural support for 480 farmers in 24 savings and production clubs in Ntchisi District.

Advocates for Community Alternatives



Funded since: 2020
Cumulative funding: \$359,577

Advocates for Community Alternatives partners with West African communities facing threats from extractive industries like deforestation and mining. They help communities organize, advocate for land rights, and launch sustainable development projects.

What we funded: Community-driven development and advocacy in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

ALIADOS



Funded since: 2022
Cumulative funding: \$268,991

ALIADOS connects smallholder farmers from rural Ecuador to global markets through regenerative agriculture.

What we funded: Technical assistance and investments for members of the ALIADOS Innovation and Investment Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Bioeconomy in the Amazon (“The ALIADOS Center”). Members of the ALIADOS Center are micro and small enterprises working in the Sumaco-Galeras Reserve buffer region.

Amazon Frontlines



Funded since: 2021
Cumulative funding: \$520,000

Amazon Frontlines builds power with the Siona, Secoya, Kofan, and Waorani Indigenous nations in Ecuador to defend their way of life, the Amazon Rainforest, and their climate futures.

What we funded: Pass-through funding for the Ceibo Alliance and Waorani Organization of Pastaza (OWAP) to thrive in and protect their climate-critical territories.

DESPRI



Funded since: 2017
Cumulative funding: \$633,721

DESPRI supports socioeconomic and environmental resilience through participatory Self-Help Groups, with a focus on women entrepreneurship, value-chains, sustainable agriculture, and environmental regeneration.

What we funded: Three core programs in the Northwest Artibonite: 1) reforestation and regeneration of degraded mountainsides; 2) financial inclusion through micro-credits for women's self-help groups; 3) and coastal ecosystem protection focusing on mangroves.

FVS-Amie des enfants

NEW PARTNER



Funded since: 2024
Cumulative funding: \$189,760

FVS-Amie des enfants protects orphans and vulnerable children in Burundi. Through community-based Child Protection Committees and Solidarity Groups, FVS stops and prevents child rights violations while empowering communities to care for vulnerable children.

What we funded: The Facilitated Collective Action Process (FCAP) in 15 villages across 3 provinces (Bujumbura Mairie, Bururi, Rumonge). We funded FCAP projects with FVS through Spark Microgrants from 2021-2023.

Gravity Water Nepal

Green Again Madagascar

Ofrenda A'bunna

People for Progress in India



Funded since: 2023
Cumulative funding:
\$89,100

Funded since: 2022
Cumulative funding:
\$67,798

Funded since: 2023
Cumulative funding:
\$272,500

Funded since: 2009
Cumulative funding:
\$299,568

Gravity Water Nepal provides schools in rural and peri-urban communities with resilient water infrastructure using innovative rainwater harvesting and filtration technology.

What we funded: 30 water filtration systems for 5,668 students across 30 schools in Kavrepalanchowk, Nepal.

Green Again Madagascar collaborates with the people of Madagascar to develop and share robust scientific strategies for rainforest restoration and protection.

What we funded: Planting 7,587 trees in Ambodijirofo, Amorantandrazana, and Ambonivato Madagascar.

Ofrenda A'bunna is an indigenous-led organization recovering Arhuaco ancestral land in Colombia. Over 70% of purchased land is dedicated to natural regeneration, while the remainder is used for growing communal food, fibers, and medicine.

What we funded: Recovering 534 acres of Arhuaco ancestral land through two land purchases.

People for Progress in India supports positive socio-economic change to the underprivileged, marginalized, and exploited sectors of India.

What we funded: Pass-through funding for organizations working in education, sustainable agriculture, sanitation, reforestation, skills training, and disaster relief.

Power of Love



Funded since: 2013
Cumulative funding: \$984,584

Power of Love focuses on developing innovative and cost-effective solutions to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Zambia and India through a community-focused model that focuses on the wellbeing of women and children.

What we funded: Malaria bed nets and educational support for children.

Rainforest Action Network



Funded since: 2010
Cumulative funding: \$414,459

Rainforest Action Network preserves forests, protects the climate and upholds human rights by challenging corporate power and systemic injustice through frontline partnerships and strategic campaigns.

What we funded: Pass-through funding for Community Action Grants providing crucial, rapid funding for communities and grassroots organizations fighting to keep forests standing.

Raising the Village



Funded since: 2020
Cumulative funding: \$774,472

Raising the Village partners with last-mile, rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa to help them move out of ultra-poverty through a 24-month graduation model that focuses on driving income, enabling participation, and ensuring sustainability through building local capacity and structures.

What we funded: RTV programming for five villages in Kanungu District and ten villages in Rubanda District in Uganda.

Shared Action Africa



Funded since: 2023
Cumulative funding: \$137,058

Shared Action Africa supports women and girls to attain sustainable livelihoods, lead healthy lives, and become agents of climate justice in rural and refugee areas in Uganda. Programs center on women's savings groups as an entry point to financial inclusion, advocacy, climate justice, and sexual and reproductive health.

What we funded: A climate-smart agriculture program supporting 750 women and their households.

SOPUDEP



Funded since: 2010
Cumulative funding: \$688,395

SOPUDEP is a Haitian-run grassroots organization providing free and accessible education to adults and children.

What we funded: Teacher and staff salaries for 64 employees serving 771 students.

Spark Microgrants



Funded since: 2016
Cumulative funding: \$1,491,304

Spark Microgrants works with communities, governments, and local organizations to drive lasting change through the Facilitated Collective Action Process (FCAP). Villages facing poverty receive resources and skills to design and implement self-chosen development projects.

What we funded: A "Green FCAP" pilot in partnership with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund for 15 villages facing significant risks related to conservation and environmental protection.

Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods



Funded since: 2016
Cumulative funding: \$436,134

Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL) provides safe, affordable sanitation in underserved Haitian communities. Their composting toilets and collection service (EkoLakay) are transforming waste into compost to prevent disease, improve wellbeing, and restore ecosystems.

What we funded: EkoLakay service for over 2,500 households in Cap-Haitien.

WINGS



Funded since: 2019
Cumulative funding: \$220,287

WINGS provides quality reproductive health education and services to underserved Guatemalan youth, women, and men.

What we funded: WINGS' Volunteer Promoter Network (VPN) and Community Advisory Board. The VPN is a network of community leaders in rural areas providing contraceptive counseling, low-cost short-acting methods, and referrals to WINGS medical clinics.

Women's Global Education Project



Funded since: 2018
Cumulative funding: \$550,365

Women's Global Education Project empowers women and girls in rural areas of East and West Africa through education, to build better lives and foster more equitable communities.

What we funded: 364 scholarships for adolescent girls and reproductive health workshops for 200 girls in Kenya.



Photo: Ofrenda A'bunna

WOMEN AS COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKERS

World Centric's commitment to gender equity

Nearly [three-quarters](#) of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depend on gender equity. Yet progress on SDG 5, gender equality by 2030, [has stagnated](#). Millions of women and girls still face systemic barriers: [1-in-5](#) marry before age 18, only [63%](#) of female students in low-income countries complete primary school, and [nearly half](#) of women aged 15-49 are denied decision-making power over their own reproductive health. By 2030, an estimated [340 million](#) women and girls will still live in extreme poverty if transformative change does not occur.

Despite stalled progress at the global scale, grassroots organizations around the world are advancing women's rights and inclusion. At World Centric, each of the organizations we support in our Impact Grants program is championing gender in their own unique ways — from expanding educational access for girls, to creating economic opportunities for women, to advocating for reproductive rights. We are proud to highlight three of our Impact Grant partners doing community-based work in pursuit of gender equity.



Photo: DESPRI

740 million women are unbanked

The finance gap for women entrepreneurs — which make up a critical portion of micro, small, and medium enterprises — is valued at [\\$1.7 trillion](#). Women are often excluded from formal banking due to lack of official identification, mobile devices (for mobile banking), and informal and formal norms that limit women's access to financial capital. Alternatives to formal financial systems, such as women-led savings groups, play a key role in improving livelihoods for women and households in extreme poverty.

DESPRI supports bottom-up participatory Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which empower women to plan, organize, and develop self-sufficiency and solidarity. Over the course of 6 years, a total of 3,000 women members of 150 SHGs in the upper Artibonite of Haiti are managing more than 280,000 USD in self-generated loans.

2023 RESULTS

- ↑ **262** Self-Help Groups representing 5,200 women received capacity-building
- ↑ **30%** increase in number of women starting micro and small enterprises
- ↑ **15%** increase in savings and loan amounts of Self-Help Groups

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Photo: Shared Action Africa

4 out of 5 people displaced by climate change are women and girls

Women are environmental stewards, producing 80% of food in developing countries. They are also the backbone of a household, often doing at least two and half times more unpaid domestic and care work than men. With the unequal burden of care, women tend to be the first responders to environmental disasters, rescuing children, elderly, and others.

Shared Action Africa (SAA) highlights the leadership role of women in displaced communities, helping women attain sustainable livelihoods in rural and refugee settlements in Uganda. In addition to programs in financial inclusion and sexual and reproductive health and rights, SAA implements a sustainable agriculture program, which supports women's climate resilience and food production.

2023 RESULTS

- ↑ **242%** increase in number of women with access to community gardens
- ↑ **38%** increase in access to cleaner cookstoves
- ↓ **31%** decrease in women's reliance on financial loans to secure food



Photo: WINGS Guatemala

51% of women do not use any form of contraceptive

Unplanned pregnancies can put strain on relationships, financial and material resources, and maternal health. Family planning is a powerful and often overlooked way to help women escape poverty and reduce environmental impact. Beyond family planning benefits, barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) can also be lethal. In 2022, 94% of deaths caused by cervical cancer were in low- and middle-income countries, reflecting major inequities in accessing health services for a highly curable disease.

WINGS provides quality reproductive health education and services in rural Guatemala, helping to reduce and prevent unplanned pregnancy, maternal and infant mortality, and cervical cancer deaths.

2023 RESULTS

↑ **8,914** short-acting contraceptive methods distributed through the VPN

↓ **347** unintended pregnancies prevented*

↓ **2** child deaths prevented*

*Estimated using the Marie Stopes International Impact 2 model



Photo: Sustainable Cambodia

STAFF GIVING

Staff Giving empowers employees to engage in our giving by selecting nonprofits for funding. The Staff Giving Team, an internal volunteer committee, determines priority impact areas for the year and nominates a list of non-profit organizations. Each World Centric staff member then allocates their annual Staff Giving fund (\$2,000 per employee) to organizations of their choice from the nominated list. In March of 2024, our staff donated to 20 organizations across four continents, supporting a diversity of programs.

Africa	Action for Environmental Sustainability (Malawi) Afyaplus Organization (Tanzania) Aqua-Farms Organization (Tanzania) Hope Land Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo) Our Sisters' Opportunity (Rwanda) Water for South Sudan (South Sudan) Zamkanda Initiatives Limited (Zambia)
Asia	Sustainable Cambodia (Cambodia)
Latin America and the Caribbean	DESPRI (Dominican Republic) Contour Lines Corp. (Guatemala) MAIA Impact (Guatemala) Olive Tree Project (Haiti)
United States	Alaska Wildlife Alliance (Alaska) BLINC (Florida) Green Forests Work (Appalachia) Migrant Justice (Vermont) Oakland Bloom (California) Reef Guardians (Hawaii, California) Refugee Women's Network (Georgia) You Can Vote (North Carolina)

REGIONAL GIVING



Photo: Detroit Food Academy

Regional Giving partners primarily with U.S. nonprofits to reduce food waste, combat plastic pollution, promote composting, and advance equity in foodservice. This program is carried out in collaboration with World Centric's Regional Sales Managers, who stay attuned to customer and consumer perspectives on issues intersecting with World Centric's mission and products: food and resource recovery.

This year, we are excited to partner with 19 organizations:

Bay Area	Californians Against Waste Plastic Free Restaurants
Carolinas	North Carolina Composting Council Plastic Ocean Project (North Carolina)
Florida	360 Eats Clean Miami Beach Debris Free Oceans
International	Monte Azul (Puerto Rico) Sikanda (Mexico)
Mid-Atlantic	Go Green OC Inc (Maryland) Grow Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania)
New York/New Jersey	Street Vendor Project (New York) Urban Agriculture Cooperative (New Jersey)
Ohio Valley	Detroit Food Academy (Michigan) Kentucky Waterways Alliance (Kentucky) Let's Grow Akron (Ohio) Make Food Not Waste (Michigan)
Southwest	Compost Cats (University of Arizona) Every Day Action (California)



“When I learned that Michigan landfills two billion pound of food waste every year I wanted to work with a non-profit tackling this problem. Make Food Not Waste’s holistic approach to food waste is making a big impact in Michigan. It has been a privilege to work with their team.”

Gerry Neimer, Regional Sales Manager, Ohio Valley

“Despite being ‘America’s Farm-to-Fork Capital’, many in Sacramento still face food insecurity and economic disparities. We supported a local nonprofit, Alchemist CDC, which uplifts the foodservice industry. Supporting this vital industry not only strengthens the local economy but also empowers small foodservice businesses and ensures equitable access to fresh, healthy food — fostering a stronger, more connected community.”

Bhavani Werning, Senior Regional Sales Manager, Bay Area





IN-KIND PRODUCT DONATIONS

World Centric supported over **216 events and programs** with in-kind product donations. We work with preK-12 schools, community groups, and nonprofits working on social, environmental, and human rights issues. Here are two organizations and events that we supported this year:

Street Vendor Project (New York)

Street Vendor Project (SVP) is a membership-based organization of over 3,000 entrepreneurs. Through direct legal representation, small business training, organizing support, and strategic legislative advocacy, SVP builds power and community among vendors.

Event: We provided product for SVP's annual Scavenger Hunt, where New Yorkers and tourists sign up to complete fun challenges while trying new foods from New York's unique street vendors. With 41 teams and 283 individual donors, SVP raised \$17,573 for a language justice fund to translate their meetings into 5+ languages. World Centric also supported SVP this year through Regional Giving.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (Maryland)

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation fights for effective, science-based solutions to the pollution degrading the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. They advocate for pollution reduction throughout the Chesapeake's six-state, 64,000-square-mile watershed, which is home to more than 18 million people and 3,000 species of plants and animals.

Event: World Centric provided product for Bands in the Sand, which was headlined by Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reef band. In just one night of great music and delicious food, the event raised nearly half-a-million dollars towards saving Chesapeake Bay.

EMPLOYEE DONATION MATCHING

This year, we matched **close to \$25,000** in employee donations to **43 organizations.**

Amazon Frontlines
Arkansas Abortion Support Network
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Ayiti Trust
Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation
Center for Biological Diversity
Ceres Community Project
EWO
ExtraFood.Org
Friends of Reggio
Gravity Water
India's Hope
International Justice Mission
KQED
Lancaster Farm Sanctuary
Lily's Legacy
Luther Burbank Center for the Arts
MAIA
Middle East Children's Alliance
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
Native Conservancy
Native Songbird Care and Conservation
Naturan Guatemala
People for Progress in India
Petaluma COTS
Petaluma River Park Foundation
Petaluma Wildlife Museum
Protect Our Winters
Shared Action Africa
San Elijo Elementary PTO
Seeding Justice
Sikanda (Solidaridad Internacional Kanda AC)
SOIL - Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods
SoMo PTA
The Sloth Conservation Foundation
Southern Poverty Law Center
Triangle Beagle Rescue Of NC
UNICEF
Urban Justice Center - Street Vendor Project
Valley Vista PTA
White Coat Waste Project
World Central Kitchen

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING

REFLECTIONS ON 2024 <

At World Centric, our commitment to being a learning organization drives both our growth and our Giving program. This year, we deepened our understanding of impact through insights, lessons, and feedback from our nonprofit partners and funding peers. Key milestones in our shared journey of learning include:

Workshop: “Accelerating Impact: Pioneering Data-Informed Development”

In partnership with Raising the Village (RTV), we hosted a webinar in September focused on leveraging data to inform development and accelerate impact. The event, attended by 27 participants from 16 organizations, fostered valuable discussions, including future learning opportunities such as Indigenous evaluation practices in diverse contexts.

Research: Measuring Success

World Centric prioritizes funding data-driven programs and organizations, which learn, grow, and measure impact through robust, quantitative methods. Recognizing that quantitative data alone cannot fully capture impact, we launched a research initiative to better understand how our nonprofit partners define and communicate success. The findings from this project will inform our Giving program and be shared with our partners in the coming year.

> PRIORITIES FOR 2025

As we look ahead, we are committed to exploring the following areas:

- **Capacity strengthening:** Identifying and addressing the non-monetary needs of our partners to build organizational resilience and capacity.
- **Strategic geographies:** Evaluating the intersection of extreme poverty and environmental degradation to determine if we should prioritize specific countries and regions for new funding.
- **Evolving funding practices:** Refining our funding strategies to better support the long-term goals of our partners.

In addition, we aim to:

- Champion the work of our current partners addressing extreme poverty and environmental challenges.
- Strengthen relationships with partners through ongoing dialogue and feedback on how we can improve as funders.
- Diversify our understanding of impact and refine how we evaluate organizational success.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to grow alongside our partners and funding peers as we collectively strive for a better world. Thank you for supporting World Centric in 2024.



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