



**GIVING WOMEN THE
CHANCE TO CHOOSE**

Annual Report 2018

Sustainable Development is a phrase we frequently hear, and people are an integral part of sustainable development. However, without the ability to make choices about family size and child spacing, millions of people remain trapped in poverty. Over 210 million women worldwide don't have access to family planning and our work seeks to contribute to addressing these needs.

One of the main aims of CHASE Africa is to give people the chance to escape poverty. One of the best solutions for giving families this opportunity is to offer women family planning that gives them a chance to choose how many children they would like to have. We work at the local level with practical action but it is always important to keep an eye on the big picture. We can only hope that the millions of women, mainly in Africa, who still have no access to family planning, are not forgotten. The average worldwide fertility rate per woman is 2.5 children, but in Africa it is still 4.7.

Many African governments already face considerable demands to provide adequate healthcare, education and employment opportunities, but if their populations double each country's problems will only increase.

CHASE Africa works in Kenya and Uganda, and like the world situation, fertility rates vary enormously across different parts of these countries. Looking across the whole of Kenya, an average of 53% of married women have access to a modern form of contraception, but in the rural County of Marsabit, for example, this falls to only 2%.



CHASE Africa (Community Health And Sustainable Environment)

Rockfield House, Horn Street, Nunney, BA11 4NP

Charity 1082958

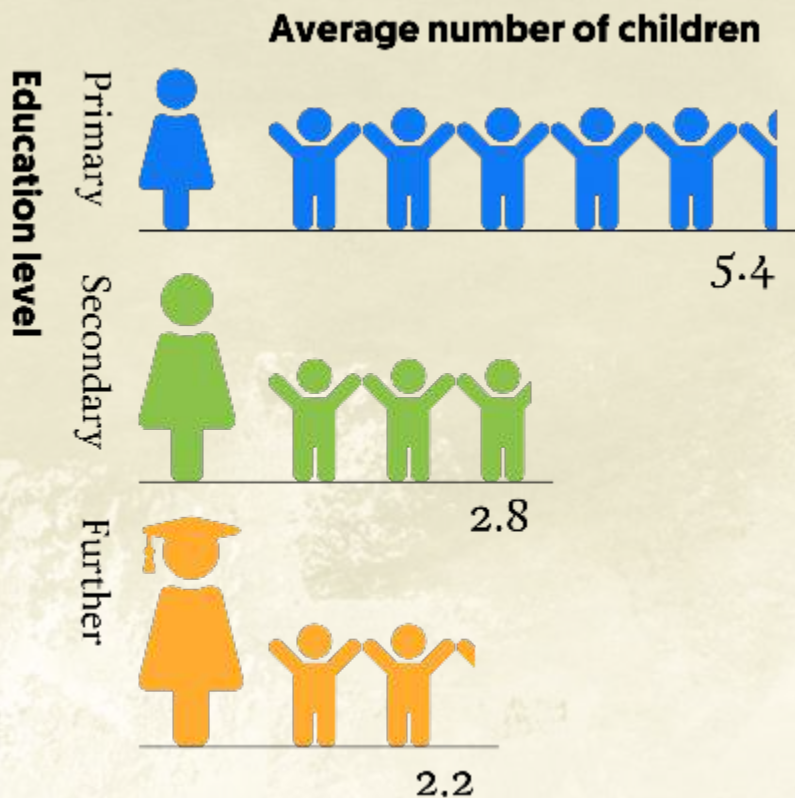
Generally, the more rural the location the less opportunity women have to access family planning, resulting in higher rates of fertility. Women in these areas often have many more children than they want or can afford. With little or no income, these families rely on natural resources to sustain them and with a rapidly expanding population the natural environment is placed under enormous pressure, making an already difficult life harder still.

A common theme the world over is that when girls have access to education, fertility rates fall. In Kenya a girl who only goes to primary school will have an average of 5.4 children. If she finishes secondary school, this figure drops to 2.8; and if she goes on to further education, the number falls again – she is likely to have only 2.2 children. Only 47% of girls are fortunate enough to go to secondary school in Kenya. The main reason is the cost of school fees (typically £230 a year), and with an average wage of just £1.65 a day, many parents, especially those with many children, cannot afford school fees. When a mother can choose how many children she would like to have her daughters stand a much better chance of going to secondary school.

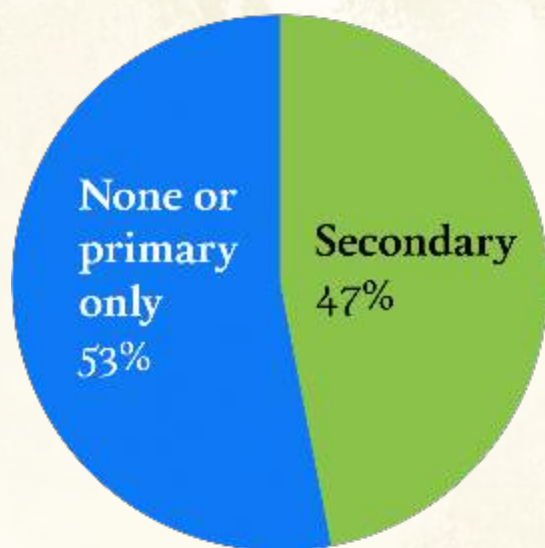
CHASE Africa works with six partner organisations to run mobile clinics that offer free primary healthcare and family planning. We also fund tree planting projects, helping to repair degraded environments, and creating income generating opportunities for schools.

In March 2018 we arranged for all our partners to meet up for two days. Each partner gave a presentation about the work that CHASE funds, with a lively question and answer session after each presentation. This proved to be a really useful exercise with all partners learning from each other.

In 2018 CHASE Africa funded projects that delivered 56,662 family planning treatments which is 87,051 couple year protection (CYP) of family planning. In layman's terms CYP is equivalent to giving 87,051 women one year's family planning. It's a way of showing the impact of the shorter and longer types of contraceptives we offer (the pill, Depovera 3-month injection, 3 or 5 year implant and IUCD) through our mobile clinics.



Education for girls



School fees per child: £0.63 a day
Average wage: £1.65 a day

News from Our Partners

Mount Kenya Trust (MKT)

MKT is working to protect and conserve the forest, water and wildlife around Africa's second highest mountain. Mount Kenya's forests, vast bamboo stands and moorlands host incredible biodiversity. It is one of the largest contiguous forests remaining in Kenya and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the most impressive landscapes of Eastern Africa, with its rugged glacier clad summits, AfroAlpine Moorlands and diverse forests.

Mount Kenya's forests suffered considerably in the 20th century when large areas were cleared to provide timber and land for a rapidly growing population. At the turn of the 21st century, a detailed aerial survey, carried out by the United Nations Environmental Programme and Kenya Wildlife Service found extensive destruction of the mountain ecosystem. The effects of this are being felt with a decreasing amount of annual rainfall leading to reduced water levels in the rivers flowing from the mountain. Many of the rivers on the north side of the mountain have become seasonal. MKT is working hard to restore the forest and in 2018 CHASE Africa funding supported the planting of 22,000 indigenous trees.

Many schools around the Mountain have a programme that feeds all the children in the school. The cooking is done with firewood which is bought and which has often been illegally cut in the National Park. Many of these rural schools have up to 10 acres of land and since 2016 CHASE Africa funding has enabled 19,600 trees to be planted at 31 schools. The most popular species to grow is *Casuarina equisetifolia* which produces excellent firewood and is nitrogen fixing, benefitting vegetables grown between the trees, and coppices well when cut down.

CHASE Africa helped to establish MKT's community health service project (CHSP) in 2014. An integral part of the project is the work of the Community Health Workers (CHWs) who were selected and trained from the large number of women who were working on the reforestation project. The aim of the project is to empower local community members living around the mountain, particularly women of reproductive age, by educating them about family planning and sexual health. Family planning significantly contributes to improved maternal and child health and economic development. CHWs visit women at home and are able to provide oral contraceptives and condoms. They also provide referrals for long-term methods of family planning either to the monthly outreaches run by MKT or to a Ministry of Health (MoH) facility.

All MKT clinics are held, and mobilising is done, in accordance with MoH protocols and they do not work anywhere without government permission. Regular meetings are set up with the county administrations to ensure that the partnership is working well and that both parties are happy. In 2018 this project saw 7,952 people for healthcare issues and dispensed 12,588 family planning treatments (15,122 CYP).





Community Health Volunteers (CHV)

Community Health Volunteers was set up by Gabriel Masundi who for many years was a bird guide in Kakamega forest. He is passionate about trying to protect the birds in the forest and also about the health issues in his local community. We started working with CHV in 2016 and in that first year we funded seven one-day mobile clinics. In 2018 we supported a total of 52 mobile clinics with 111,861 patients being seen for a general healthcare issue and 16,483 women choosing to have family planning (30,467 CYP).

As with all our partners, the work done by the community health volunteers, working door to door before a clinic happens, is crucial in helping more women understand the benefits of family planning. A big effort is also put into letting the community know a mobile clinic will be operating on a certain date. This includes a public address system mounted on a car which visits the area for two days before the clinic arrives, announcements at church services, posters displayed around the region and encouraging head teachers to inform their pupils to tell their parents.

As well as treating many health ailments the clinics also test for HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer. The American Government provided free testing kits for HIV/AIDS and in 2018, 58 positive cases were found. The Kenyan Government provides free anti-retroviral drugs. Cervical cancer screening is relatively new, and while some county health departments stipulate it must be carried out, others don't. In 2018 the CHV mobile clinics identified 118 patients who needed to be referred for treatment in a county hospital.

Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT)

CHAT works with marginalised communities, many of whom are semi-nomadic pastoralists, mainly in the counties of Marsabit, Isiolo, Laikipia, Baringo and Samburu, who have limited access to healthcare.



The roads in these areas can be very challenging and CHAT uses a variety of means of transport to reach their clients. Sometimes their nurse will travel on the back of a motorbike, sometimes in a Land Rover and when the going gets very tough a team of camels is used to move the clinic. In the 10 days before a clinic arrives the CHWs make every effort to publicise what health services will be available; going door to door and targeting Chief gatherings and churches. In 2018 CHASE Africa funding enabled CHAT to deliver 10,330 family planning treatments (24,303 CYP) and 7,167 people were treated for a health related issue.

Dandelion Africa

Dandelion Africa is based in the village of Mogotio in Baringo County in the dry harsh environment of the Rift Valley. It was founded by Wendo Aszed who is committed to women's empowerment both in terms of improving their health and creating employment opportunities. In 2018 Dandelion opened a new maternity hospital and expanded their campaign to end female genital mutilation. In 2018, 5,659 family planning treatments were dispensed (8,175 CYP) and over 64,000 patients were seen for a basic healthcare treatment.

In 2018 CHASE Africa and Ace Africa collaborated to learn from each other. Ace Africa trained CHASE partner, Dandelion Africa, in sustainable agricultural and nutrition practices and income generating activities. CHASE Africa partner, FOMAWA trained Ace Africa in its integrated school tree-planting programme. CHASE Africa and Ace Africa programmes will complement one another and result in improved incomes and nutrition in schools and within households.

The project also has a specific focus on environmental protection. The trees and vegetation planted will have a beneficial effect on the environment, children and community members. In addition, those trained will have greater capacity and knowledge about environmental protection enabling them to conserve, live sustainably and live in harmony with the land for generations to come.

Friends of Mau Watershed (FOMAWA)

We first became involved with FOMAWA in 2006. Since then we have funded the planting of a commercial stand of trees at 131 schools. The trees are looked after by the school children, which hopefully engenders a positive attitude to growing trees, a skill they can use in later life.

The earlier schools to plant are harvesting and selling timber, to date a total of 4,627,800 Kenya shillings (about £37,000) has been made from timber sales which is a very valuable boost to school incomes.

Big Life Foundation (BLF)

Big life Foundation is based near Amboseli National Park. The park is famous for being the best place in the world to get close to free-ranging elephants with wonderful views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world.





In 2017 Dandelion Africa helped to train BLF to be able to run a community health project. This involved training 14 local people as community health workers. In 2018 BLF took the project over and working closely with the local health department they ran seven outreach clinics. In the rural Maasai community there is often a lot of stigma and false information surrounding family planning such as that it causes cancer and infertility. In a polygamous society where large families are still seen as a sign of financial and social prosperity, and education levels are very low (48% of Maasai girls go to primary schools with only 10% making it to secondary school), there are many barriers to break down before family planning will become an acceptable part of modern Maasai life. It is the role of the CHWs to work in the community and to try and break down the myths and misconceptions and explain the benefits that family planning can bring.

Rural Initiatives for Community Empowerment (RICE-WN)

RICE is CHASE Africa's first partner in Uganda. The average number of children per woman in Uganda is 5.7, much higher than Kenya's 3.85 and the reason why Uganda's population is predicted to go from the present 44 million to 101 million by 2050. RICE's director spent time with two of our partners in Kenya learning how they

operate. With the knowledge gained from his visit RICE put on six medical outreaches in 2018. The turnout was enormous with 11,691 patients being seen for a basic health issue and 886 family planning treatments being given out (1,143 CYP). RICE will be helping another Ugandan NGO set up a similar programme in 2019.

Watersheds Ecosystem Conservation (WEC)

WEC is a new organisation, founded in 2018, but we have worked closely with WEC's director, Jacob Mwanduka for 15 years in his previous role as Operations Manager and Executive Officer for FOMAWA based in Nakuru, Kenya. Jacob left FOMAWA to work in and around, Kitui, his home town. Although WEC is in its early stages, Jacob has already planted trees at five schools around Kitui, funded by CHASE Africa.





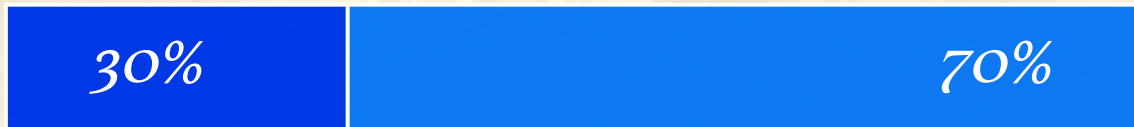
All of our school tree planting projects bring a number of benefits to the schools:

- cuttings from branches provide a vital source of free firewood for cooking school meals – often the only nutritious meal a child gets each day;
- bringing money into the school from the sale of timber – this money can be used to buy books and build classrooms, and also reduces the pressure on parents, who are already dealing with poverty, to subsidise school activities;
- inter-cropping between the trees during the first 18 months provides food that the school and local community can either use or sell – crops such as beans, green lentils and cowpeas are planted between the trees;
- teach children how to grow and take care of trees, and gives the teachers the opportunity to discuss environmental concerns at a practical level;
- contribute to the sequestration of carbon dioxide, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change that disproportionately affect the poorest people; and
- offer shade and a pleasant environment for the children during the school day.



Our financial year

Income = £387,287 (2017: £250,146)



Donation and fundraising activities

Grants from trusts and institutions

Expenditure = £309,332 (2017: £235,839)

