



25TH
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

the focus
2022

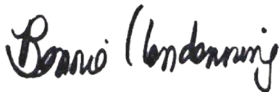
IT'S BEEN 25 YEARS

since six guests of Thomson Safaris, moved by their experiences with the beauty and vibrancy of Tanzania, joined with Judi Wineland to give back to the communities that touched their hearts. Founded as Focus on Tanzanian Schools, it quickly became clear that while education was vitally important to improving the opportunities for Tanzanians, it was just one piece of the puzzle.

The Board members soon realized through talks with community elders, locals and the country's leaders that a broader mission would multiply the benefits to communities many times over. That far-reaching, community-wide approach is now Focus on Tanzanian Communities (FOTZC).

Today FOTZC focuses on four of the United Nations Sustainable Goals: good health & well-being, quality education, gender equality, and clean water & sanitation. Those might seem like very different goals, but 25 years of working with our Tanzanian partners has shown us how deeply interconnected they are.

None of the projects we've undertaken over the last 25 years has existed in a vacuum; instead they're all woven together, threads in a fabric of stronger, more resilient communities.



Bonnie Clendenning
FOTZC Board President



Judi Wineland
FOTZC Director and
CEO, Thomson Safaris





IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES, YOU'LL SEE:

- **How providing communities with clean water** not only improves overall health, but leads to both educational opportunities for children and greater independence and gender equality for women.
- **How the state-of-the-art Sukenya dispensary** has improved the health of mothers and newborns, freeing up those mothers to build and maintain businesses via the Community Conservation Banking (COCOA) program.
- **How COCOA-sponsored businesses** strengthen both families and the entire community.
- **How these opportunities give women a path to leadership roles** in Tanzania's traditionally patriarchal society.



SAKILA, THE FIRST FOTZC- SUPPORTED SCHOOL

Twenty-five years ago, it all started with education – a foundation generations and entire communities have built upon. The very first place we partnered with locals on this mission was Sakila Primary School, located between Arusha and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Over the course of several years, with support from generous donors like you, we installed electricity, provided computers, built six new classrooms and three new

teachers' houses which helped draw top educators to the school.

This new environment led to huge improvements for Sakila's students. Yona Andrew Nnko was a student at Sakila in 1958 when only four of the 45 students passed their national exams. Now a retired headmaster at the Sakila Primary School, he created a supportive setting for students to focus on their studies. Because this environment has been maintained, students now achieve good grades and proceed with further studies.

Since FOTZC began supporting the school, more and more successful former students have been bringing their skills as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and more back to the community that helped them succeed.



EDUCATION: OPENING MINDS & DOORS

Since Sakila, FOTZC has partnered with 21 other villages to bring 60 spacious classrooms, housing for 40 teachers, and 5 dormitories for hundreds of students across the region. All of this allows students and teachers to focus on education in a healthy, productive environment.

The effects have been widespread, and students, elders, and community representatives have all been vocal about the improvements they've seen. According to Lucas Kursas, a ward councilor in Oloipiri, "Through FOTZC's partnership with our schools, we saw a huge rise in daily attendance. The awareness and willingness to educate children in the Maasai community has increased hugely."

Perhaps no one understands the far-reaching benefits of improved educational spaces and opportunities more than the students. Wasso student Lucas Mbapaik Kepukan talks about the effects of FOTZC, both on his immediate future and the future of his community:

"This school is closer, and we have water nearby, so no lessons are skipped because of fetching water. Having a boarding school helps me get enough time to study at night. Education can alleviate poverty in a society, because when you are educated you will get a job and from the job you will get paid; that is how you get rid of poverty."



"I studied at the Sakila Primary School FOTZC helped expand in size. Now I am a private lawyer providing free legal services to women so that they can know their rights."

Jane Ayo, Lawyer



CLEAN WATER HEALTHY LIFE

Some things we can choose to live without; water is an absolute necessity. In rural Tanzania, water access is limited, with women and children (particularly girls) trekking hours daily to find the water they need, then carrying their heavy loads back under the hot sun. Not only are those journeys dangerous, the water itself is often a source of disease. Illness, combined with the physical difficulty of water-gathering, means women are left unable to pursue their own dreams, and children are often forced to skip school or drop out entirely to help in the household.



RIPPLING EFFECTS...

FOTZC donors contributed \$360,000 to build 13 boreholes throughout the region, bringing clean, safe water within reach for thousands. These deep wells with solar-powered pumps tap into groundwater that our partner communities otherwise couldn't access.

In communities with new boreholes, waterborne disease has virtually been eradicated, meaning everyone from community elders, to new mothers, to schoolchildren are staying healthier. This is allowing them to pursue new businesses, provide better care for their families, and focus on their studies, all of which open the door to yet more opportunities.

Instead of trekking for hours each day, women can now join local COCOBA initiatives and start building businesses for themselves. Children have more time for their studies and are avoiding illnesses that previously meant falling behind their classmates. According to Joseph Ladislaus, a chemistry teacher at Ganako Secondary School, "Water from the boreholes helps maintain vegetable gardens that supplement school lunches and keep students healthier. Having a permanent source of water has greatly improved performance; we are now ranked 17 out of 600 schools in the country".



Gardens at Ganako Secondary School



EMPOWERING WOMEN STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

When we first started partnering with communities in Tanzania, women were marginalized with their domestic responsibilities. Their daily tasks—gathering water from distant sources, cooking meals, and caring for young children—were often grueling, and left no time to pursue a different path. We quickly realized that empowering women tied into all the other areas of focus we'd been addressing with our Tanzanian partners; it had ripple effects far beyond the individual women affected.

- **EDUCATION:** Building schools and girls dormitories made it possible for hundreds of girls to stay in school. Many of those girls have gone on to earn advanced degrees, and they're using their knowledge to help themselves, their families, and other local women and girls.
- **WATER:** The 13 boreholes throughout the region have given women a source of clean, accessible water, eliminating dangerous hours-long daily treks for unclean water and giving them time to start their own businesses.
- **HEALTH:** The Sukenya clinic has made basic healthcare accessible for hundreds of residents, and pre- and postnatal care has empowered mothers to have healthier pregnancies and to raise healthier children.



EMPOWERMENT HAS NEVER TASTED SO SWEET...

The longer we worked in Tanzania, the clearer it became that empowering women directly enables our partner villages to achieve the broader goals they'd set for themselves. With that in mind, in 2015 we launched the Community Conservation Banking (COCOBA) program in Loliondo. Through micro-loans, entrepreneurship training, and ongoing guidance, COCOBA helps women build environmentally-friendly businesses they can maintain themselves.

In addition to beaded jewelry, one of COCOBA's great successes has been beekeeping. Products are expanding from honey to beeswax items like soaps, candles and lotions. The women are using the profits to feed their families, pay their children's school fees, start new businesses and build new homes. All of this elevates the standing in their communities. We think that's a very sweet result.

True gender equality is still a long way off, but creating more opportunities for the women of Tanzania has resulted in stronger, more resilient communities where women increasingly have a voice. They're using that voice to mentor other women, give more opportunities to girls and help direct the future of their villages, improving the outlook for the next generation.



*“When you empower a woman,
you empower the whole community.”*

Asela Melkiory
Beekeeping project manager at COCOBA



HEALTHIER INDIVIDUALS HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Perhaps more than any other areas of focus, health is fundamental to everything else our partner communities are trying to achieve.

When men and women fall ill and can't access treatment, they're unable to work and care for their families. This hurts the economic outlook of the entire community.

When children don't have access to common vaccines, or suffer from malnutrition, they're unable to attend school. Over the long term, this means missing out on opportunities to build better lives for themselves and bring their skills back to their communities.

When mothers lack vital pre- and postnatal care, they miss out on information and interventions that can provide a healthier labor and early childhood experiences. If complications arise over the course of the pregnancy or during home deliveries, they face up to a two-hour journey to the nearest hospital. The mother and child might be at serious risk, both in the moment, and going forward.

FOTZC completed the Sukenya medical dispensary in 2015. Already, its effects are spreading far and wide. Dispensary births and pre- and postnatal care has significantly reduced both mother and infant mortality rates by over 95%. The health clinic's doctors and nurses teach patients about everything from proper nutrition to the benefits of vaccinating themselves and their children. This education is empowering men and women to make better-informed decisions for themselves and their families.



SUKENYA HEALTH CENTER

Reliable access to basic healthcare has been a community priority for years. The dispensary was such an immediate and unqualified success that the Tanzanian government asked us to think bigger.

In 2018, they asked FOTZC to help expand it to a fully-functional health center for area residents. We agreed and the maternity ward and surgical suite have now been built. Medical staff housing is next in order to attract good quality doctors and nurses. There's still work to do, but already the District Medical Officer is impressed with the improved health of the community, and the benefits that are carrying over into education, women's empowerment, and economic independence – once more, *thanks to you*.

“We thank FOTZC for this health clinic; it is because of you, our standard of living is improved. If you were not here our lives would be so hard and unbearable.”

Lettit Lettit, Chairman of Sukenya Village

FINANCIALS

Revenue and Expenditures for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

All administration and development costs are covered by a foundation, board members and Thomson Safaris. This means that 100% of your donation goes directly to funding projects.

REVENUE

Cash Donations, excluding pledges	\$347,917
In-Kind Gifts (Thomson Safaris)	\$15,000
Outstanding Pledges	\$100,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$462,917

EXPENDITURES

Projects	81.5%	\$377,091
On-Site Project Management Expenses		\$22,008
COCOBA		\$24,584
Christopher P. Halloran School Borehole		\$37,444
Christopher P. Halloran Dining Pavilion		\$49,151
Soit Sambu Girls' Dormitory		\$49,981
COCOBA Honey-Processing Center		\$13,791
Sukenya Health Center Surgical Suite		\$79,766
Robanda Primary and Secondary Boreholes		\$76,955
Robanda Primary Classrooms		\$23,412
Administration & Development	18.5%	\$85,426
Management Fees		\$48,614
Website & Database Fees		\$3,620
Accounting Fees		\$10,000
Nationwide Nonprofit Registrations		\$7,466
D&O Insurance & Bank Fees		\$3,507
Marketing		\$12,219
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	100%	\$462,517



FOCUS ON: NEKAAKI OLEKIOKI EMBASH

As a child, Nekaaki Olekioki Embash's father put her to work herding cattle. Once, when she was 13, she lost four of his cows... so he sold her into marriage, telling her she was "useless."

He couldn't have been more wrong. Over the years, she learned midwifery skills from her grandmother and

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* In Honor Of or In Memory Of

Donations received September 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022

Your gift contributes to the schools, clean water, health facilities, and training programs FOTZC builds and maintains with our Serengeti partner communities. Additionally, you're providing a variety of new choices to these men, women and children. Thank you for your continued generosity; you make it possible for thousands of Tanzanians to choose a life that's healthier and more fulfilled.

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mother. When FOTZC partnered with Sukenya village elders to build the medical dispensary, Nekaaki worked there to help deliver babies. Her midwifery contributions over the decades are why we are naming it the Nekaaki Maternity Center.

But Nekaaki saw even more opportunity to improve life for her family. She joined the COCOBA program, using the skills she learned there to build

a thriving business. Soon, she'd earned enough to achieve a lifelong dream: she built her family a brand new home.

Nekaaki is grateful for how she's been able to change her family's circumstances. "I have benefited a lot from the help I am receiving from FOTZC. I am now able to meet my family's needs as well as those of my grandchildren."

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To overcome economic and social challenges in Tanzania by partnering with local communities to support education, health care, women's empowerment and other sustainable community development initiatives.

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