



February 2021

Hello friends and partners,

My heart is full of gratitude. Despite an immensely challenging 2020, it brings me great joy to say that we completed an extraordinary year!

If you know anything about Partners Worldwide, you know that we thrive on relationships and connection. Businesses, people, partners, markets, and communities—when all of these are woven in partnership, amazing things start to happen.

Poverty has many ugly forms, and they all feed off isolation and loneliness. That's why COVID-19 was so devastating, because it threatened the connections we've strengthened over the years.

But you didn't allow that to happen!

Despite the obstacles, our foundation remained solid and stable. Our global network of partners pivoted to keep businesses moving forward. We embraced new technologies and found innovative ways to enter "essential" industries. And instead of getting discouraged, disjointed, and disconnected, we found a new kind of connection in both urban and rural areas.

At one point in 2020, it was announced that COVID-19 was expected to push up to 115 million people into extreme poverty. But because of the connections we maintained, our partners we're able to put a safety net under the most vulnerable people, saving businesses and existing jobs—while even creating a huge number of new jobs!

Our network didn't crumble. Not even close. And neither did our relationships. They only grew deeper—strengthened by adversity, the grace of God, and the creative work of the Spirit.

Thank you for your faithfulness, continued support, and prayers. Our most audacious goals are still ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Seebeck". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Doug Seebeck
President & CEO

A new kind of connection.

The challenges of 2020 threatened the connections across our network. But instead of letting that happen, we collaborated and communicated digitally—and discovered a new kind of connection.





Virtual and Virtuous

Virtuous Women (VW) is a Local Community Institution in Plateau State, North-Central Nigeria. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when survival was the top priority, the VW women kept faith and took their connections digital.

One of those women is Mary, a widow who owned a clothing boutique. During the lockdown, her business was losing profits at a rapid pace. But she saw the problem as an opportunity. Mary immediately purchased roughly 4,645 square meters of land, started processing rice, and became connected to the local business market in a new way. Her crops grew, and so did her profits.

Mary didn't just survive 2020. She thrived. And she's succeeding because she identified a supply gap, and channeled energy and resources into filling it.

And Mary's story is only one of many. The Virtuous Women leadership and members have proven good stewardship of resources. Despite the impossible circumstances, their loan repayment was still 100% during the pandemic.

We thank God for Virtuous Women and the connections they're maintaining virtually.

One Man Sharpens Another

Recently, a staff member sent us a story on Haiti's WhatsApp channel—our main form of digital communication in that region. It was about Bouilli Prud'homme—a Christian, father, and entrepreneur.

Bouilli owns AATAS, an iron workshop, where he was facing challenge after challenge. The location wasn't right. The electricity wasn't reliable. Sales were down because of COVID-19. And Bouilli's two partners didn't offer much support. Luckily, another friend did—by referring him to our LCI named RES.

Bouilli became heavily involved. During one local mentoring session, he shared his struggles with a mentor named Makenley, who then helped Bouilli develop a strategy for the ironwork business. After about five months, Bouilli's revenue increased—and each of his challenges were solved. Bouilli even developed an additional revenue source by renting space and equipment to three other ironworkers.

This is a great example of local mentoring, and a fitting reminder of the famous Proverb...

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.



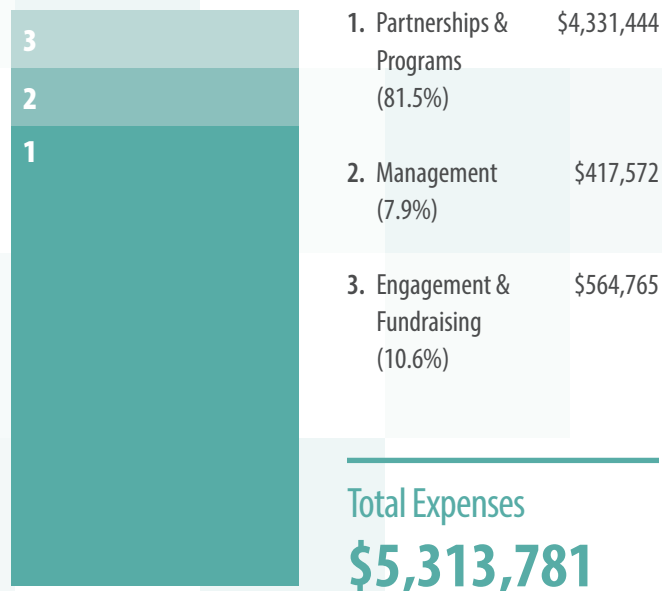
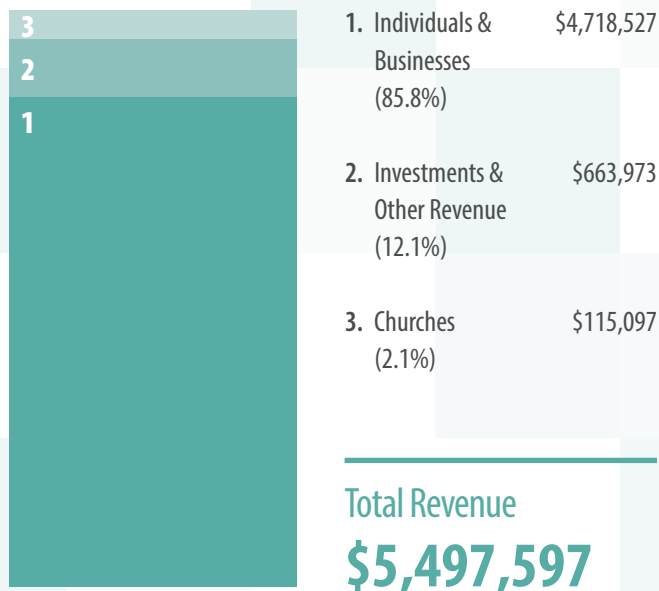
Where we stand financially.

Despite an extremely challenging year, our generous supporters kept showing up for our network. That, coupled with our vigilant watch on expenses, helped us end our fiscal year on a positive note.



Transparency and Accountability

The ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) is a third-party organization that evaluates non-profits and endorses Partners Worldwide for its financial stewardship.



The global rise of telecommunication made a big difference in 2020. Because of widespread restrictions, our entrepreneurs sent pictures, texts, and videos. Businesses from every region worked together, shared inspiring stories, and reminded us how strong our network really is.

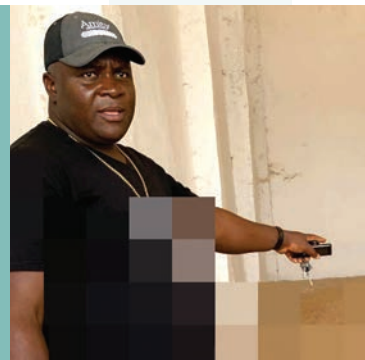


2020 Impact Metrics

Our 2020 numbers share a strong connection to the people who adapted and innovated when they could have folded, and partners who rose up, even in a time of great uncertainty.

169,329

Total
Jobs



17,587

Jobs
Created



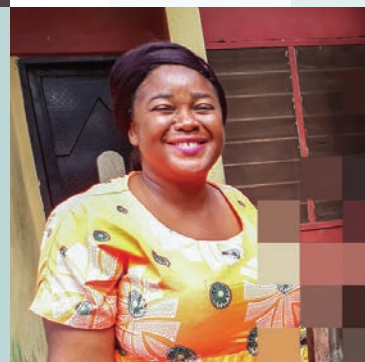
849

Total
Mentors



113,259

Client
Businesses/Farms



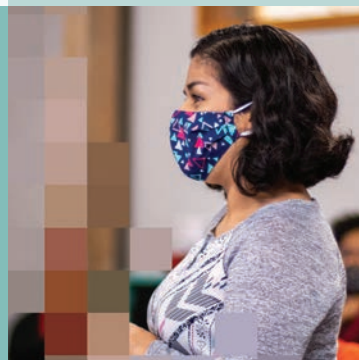
10,465

Graduates of
Business Training



\$13,763,288

Loans
Disbursed (USD)



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