

20 YEARS & COUNTING

Anniversary Edition



green empowerment

Village Solutions for Global Change since 1997

2017 Annual Report

A REFLECTION

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As I reflect on our **twentieth year**, I am filled with gratitude. Despite challenges in the regions we work – from civil unrest to extreme climate events – 2017 was our most successful year to date. This success was due, in great part, to the foundation upon which we work – a foundation that connects us to innovators, educators, funders and families committed to helping the communities we support drive their own development.

This year was also a humbling reminder that our efforts have transformed the lives of people in need, **across generations**. I was particularly inspired by Green Empowerment's legacy after a trip to the Philippines with my daughter and mother.

As we approached Hilongos, a community in Leyte, I felt anxious. A year prior, I had visited as an expecting mother and found kinship with a woman who was also pregnant. I worried that I would see this woman again, and that her baby would be among the devastatingly high number of victims of child mortality in villages like this one. I knew that Green Empowerment was helping to address this challenge, but had we done enough for this woman and her family? I was overwhelmed with joy when my fellow new mother placed a beautiful, healthy baby girl, Mika, into my arms and took Juniper from mine. We pinched cheeks and chubby legs. During a focus group with the community, we sat next to each other breastfeeding and smiling brightly at each other.

I will forever remember the way that I felt holding Mika, and what it meant to share in a moment twenty years in the making. That moment was one of many that form the vibrant tapestry of our work – from improving access to potable water in the Philippines, to increasing livelihood opportunities for alpaca-raising families in Bolivia, to advancing indigenous rights and conservation efforts in Borneo. Thank you for being a part of our **legacy** and for helping us provide clean water and renewable energy to women, children and families across the world.

I also want to thank our amazing partners and staff, who worked tirelessly this year to fulfill commitments in 8 different countries and 49 communities. Although we could not feature every effort in this report, we hope that you find both hope and beauty in the highlights. As we look ahead, we are excited to see what we will achieve by working together. I hope that we can count on you to make our next twenty years just as impactful.

Andrea Johnson



Executive Director



Our Team - U.S.

Andrea Johnson
Executive Director
Elsa Frey
Program Manager
Dexter Gauntlett
Program Dev. Manager
Kristen Grauer
Development Manager
Elise Kittrell
Technical Manager
Amanda Morse
Financial Support
Martin Olza
Operations Manager

Our Team - Abroad

Gigi Arroyo
Philippines Finance Manager
Jojo Fajardo
Philippines Program Manager
Maria Elisa Espinoza Gaitán
Nicaragua Program Fellow
Koto Kishida
Malaysia Program Officer
Orlan Letran
Philippines Technical Officer
Caitlyn Peake
Latin America Regional Director
Sam Schlesinger
Ecuador Program Manager

Johanna Veloz
Ecuador Program Fellow
Gabriel Wynn
Asia Regional Director

Our Board

Linda Boise - Chair
David Siegel - Vice Chair
Erik Petersen - Treasurer
Wendy Stickel - Secretary
Melanie Billings-Yun
Rebecca Eaton
Kathy Fry
Eli Lamb
Harrison Pettit
Francie Royce

Our Technical Advisors

Chris Baker
Jeff Hammarlund
Daniel M. Kammen
Richard Koehler
Narasimha Kumar
Nordica MacCarty
Michel Maupoux
Barbara Pizacani
Mike Stangl
Andy Szatkowski
Jordan Weisman



Cover Photo: Project beneficiaries Teresã Reyes (far right) and family in El Jazmín, Nicaragua.
Cover Photo Credit: Robert Harris Photography Meal a Day
Page 3 Photo: Service-learning participants hike to a community in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua

OUR APPROACH

PARTNER. ENGAGE. PROVIDE. AMPLIFY.

Partner with local organizations to install renewable energy and clean water projects with additional health, sanitation, environmental and economic benefits.

Engage local communities to ensure long-term project viability through community participation and system ownership.

Provide resources, technical expertise, funding and trainings to partners and communities to build local capacity.

Amplify our impact through regional networks, technical trainings and service-learning programs.

Our unique approach has benefited over **374,500** people since our establishment in 1997.

We envision an equitable and sustainable world where everyone has clean water, renewable energy and a healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.

HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY UPDATES



Bolivia In partnership with Soluciones Prácticas, we improved the livelihoods of Bolivian families. In the Amazon, 20 fishing families gained access to solar-powered refrigeration, allowing them to transport and secure better prices for their catch. In the highlands, 23 alpaca-raising families received solar-powered water pumps, allowing them to efficiently irrigate their pastures.

Photo: Women from the Suma Kamaña Association benefit from a solar water pumping project to irrigate 2.5 acres along Lake Titicaca.

Colombia In partnership with ALTRÓPICO, we constructed the organization's first water system in Colombia, benefitting 550 indigenous residents of Tallambi. We also supported EL COMUN's integrated pig husbandry and biodigester program in Santander, enabling beneficiaries to produce organic fertilizer and cooking fuel. We continued to support growth of the Colombian Bioenergy Network.

Ecuador In partnership with ALTRÓPICO, we constructed water systems for 440 residents in Esmeraldas and provided improved cookstoves to 180 families along the Colombian border. We also conducted livelihood trainings, guided reforestation efforts and installed biodigesters. In partnership with CEA, we strengthened the Ecuadorian Biodigester Network, through efforts such as local technician training.

Photo: Network practitioners learn best practices in design and implementation of biogas digesters in El Paraíso, Intag, Imbabura.

Malaysian Borneo In 2016, we supported local efforts to resist a mega-dam project on Sarawak's Baram River. This year, we developed viable energy systems in three indigenous communities, including Long Liam, an epicenter of indigenous resistance to mega-dams. In partnership with TONIBUNG, we provided access to electricity for over 500 villagers, one school and protected over 200 hectares of rainforest.

Myanmar In 2017, Green Empowerment and long-time partner BGET developed a project to bring solar energy and technician training to the hardest-to-reach places in Karen State. The project will launch in 2018 and power eight health clinics, one training center for addiction treatment workers and one school, improving medical and education services for almost 30,000 people.

Peru In partnership with Soluciones Prácticas, we improved access to electricity, potable water and computer training across Peru. We upgraded four clinics, serving 4,280 residents, and supported eight schools, serving 320 students. With support from local cooperatives and microfinance institutions, we installed 1,000 improved cookstoves that families purchased with affordable credit.

Photo: Clarisa Garanza Machuca enjoys cooking with her new improved cookstove, an alternative to stoves that emit toxic fumes indoors.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Clean Water and Resiliency in the Philippines

Green Empowerment has been working in the Philippines since 2002. In September of 2017, our Building Climate Resiliency in Water-Stressed Communities (CREST) program was successfully completed in partnership with communities, local governments and NGOs. The USAID-funded project provided clean water, sanitation infrastructure and hygiene education to indigenous and marginalized communities in remote areas of Zambales, Leyte and conflict-affected regions of Mindanao.

We installed low-cost, locally-manufactured water pumping, storage and piping systems that improved quality of life and climate change resiliency for over 40,000 people in 41 poverty-stricken villages – exceeding our original goals. We provided 19,683 village residents with access to improved sanitation, trained 2,573 residents on sanitation and hygiene and 700 local technicians on water system construction, operation and maintenance to ensure infrastructure sustainability for years to come.

Communities also received support in developing a fair and sustainable tariff system, managed by community-elected water committees, to collect funds from households for water use. This system saves a family of five an average of 24% of its monthly income (i.e., a month's supply of rice), up to 16 hours of weekly labor from traveling long distances to collect water and the cost of purchasing medicine to remedy waterborne diseases.

Photo: Children practice washing their hands in a newly constructed station.

“I am proud and happy to have my share in making this water system a success.”

- Leonista Baclay, Area Leader, Sito Gala, the Philippines

First Light in Nicaragua

In partnership with AsoFenix and ADTER-BL, we continue to advance water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects in Nicaragua. In addition to WASH services, more than 1.3 million Nicaraguans still lack access to electricity, which adversely affects livelihoods, productivity, quality of life and, above all, health. Without electricity, rural families rely on smoky kerosene lamps that emit toxic fumes, causing serious respiratory illness.

To tackle this problem in Northern Nicaragua, Green Empowerment partnered with El Gorrión to undertake a bottom-up rural electrification effort using renewable energy and innovative financing. El Gorrión is a local cooperative of small-scale coffee producers that supports over 600 members in the municipality of Yalí, Jinotega. Together, we established a revolving loan fund to provide 150 coffee-farming families affordable, low-interest microcredit to purchase 100-watt solar systems over three years. The systems provide sufficient energy for six LED lights, enough to illuminate most rural homes. The fund “revolves” – as families pay back their loans, incoming money is used to supply other families with loans to purchase their own systems. As of March 2018, 50 systems have been installed, and they are preparing for the next cycle of installations.

Photo: Yoyner Cordero illuminates his home for the first time.



REGIONAL NETWORKS

In addition to supporting project implementation with partners, Green Empowerment helps spread technical and program design knowledge through participation and support of regional networks:

RedBioLAC is a network of biodigester practitioners across Latin America and the Caribbean. RedBioLAC is a lively hub for knowledge exchange, development and innovation, with over 550 participants actively engaged in discussion groups. In 2017, the network held its 9th annual conference in Argentina, gathering over 120 students, professionals and government officials. They also published their first magazine and hosted four webinars with over 100 participants.

HPNET is a network of micro-hydro practitioners across South and Southeast Asia working to advance access, improvement and adoption of technology in the region. In 2017, we concluded a training on community organizing with the network and continue to support research and development of new technologies with HPNET.

GlobalPDX launched in 2017 as a hub for Oregon's international development community. The initiative is a new home for Development Drinks and hosted a successful inaugural conference with over 150 attendees last year. Green Empowerment is a Founding Member and sits on the Steering Committee to help drive collective global impact.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2017 we revived the Technical Advisory Committee - a group of experts who volunteer their time and expertise in support of our projects. Last year, these advisors helped to advance the following initiatives:

New Water Quality Standards Manual and training modules to ensure that all water systems meet Green Empowerment standards across our programs – supported by former Encore Fellow and Advisor Narasimha Kumar and Advisor Andy Szatkowski.

Custom Water Treatment Design that will be integrated into existing solar pump water system to reduce high concentrations of iron and manganese for communities in Bolivia – supported by Advisor Andy Szatkowski.

Chlorine Concentration Sensor that will be piloted in Nicaragua to determine the effectiveness of chlorine treatment systems and operator training – supported by Advisor Nordica MacCarty and her students from Oregon State University.

Solar System Design and Installation Training Materials – supported by former Technical Director and Advisor Michel Maupoux.

Integrated Solar Power – Hydroelectric Design to help implementing partner ATDER-BL meet energy demands during Nicaragua's dry season when hydropower output is reduced – supported by Advisor Chris Baker.

Portable Stove Model designed with ALTRÓPICO to support communities in Ecuador – supported by Advisor Richard Koehler.

PARTNERS

Association of Rural Development Workers – Benjamin Linder (ATDER-BL), AsoFenix, El COMUN, Fundación para el Desarrollo de Alternativas Comunitarias para la Conservación de los Trópicos (ALTRÓPICO), Colombian Biodigester Network (RedBioCol), Ecuadorian Biodigester Network (RedBioEc), Biodigester Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (RedBioLAC), Soluciones Prácticas-Peru, Soluciones Prácticas-Bolivia, El Gorrión Coffee Cooperative, Border Green Energy Team (BGET), TONIBUNG, PACOS Trust, Forever Sabah, Yamog, SIBAT, IBEKA, Micro-Hydro Empowerment Network (HPNET), Janathakshan

“The work gives me a sort of gratification that I did not get in the for-profit world. I'm doing the work out of passion.”

- Narasimha Kumar, Green Empowerment, Technical Advisor

SERVICE-LEARNING

Green Empowerment's international service-learning program brings students, professionals, community groups, and other volunteers to work directly with the rural communities benefitting from our projects. Participants work with our local partners, installing projects based on communities' needs, learning about local culture, and sharing knowledge and experiences with community members and each other. Last year, this program accomplished the following:

5 group trips with organizations and institutions like the University of Idaho
3 countries including Nicaragua, Ecuador and Malaysian Borneo
71 total participants from different cities across the U.S.
2,108 man-hours contributed to projects

Photos: (Left) Participants from HDR Engineering carry piping to water project site in Nicaragua. (Center) A student from Portland State University learns how to collect padi seeds in Malaysian Borneo. (Right) A participant from HDR Engineering cuts wire with a local technician in Nicaragua.

“One of the best experiences of my life! Don't change a thing.”

- Service-learning participant, Portland State University, Malaysian Borneo



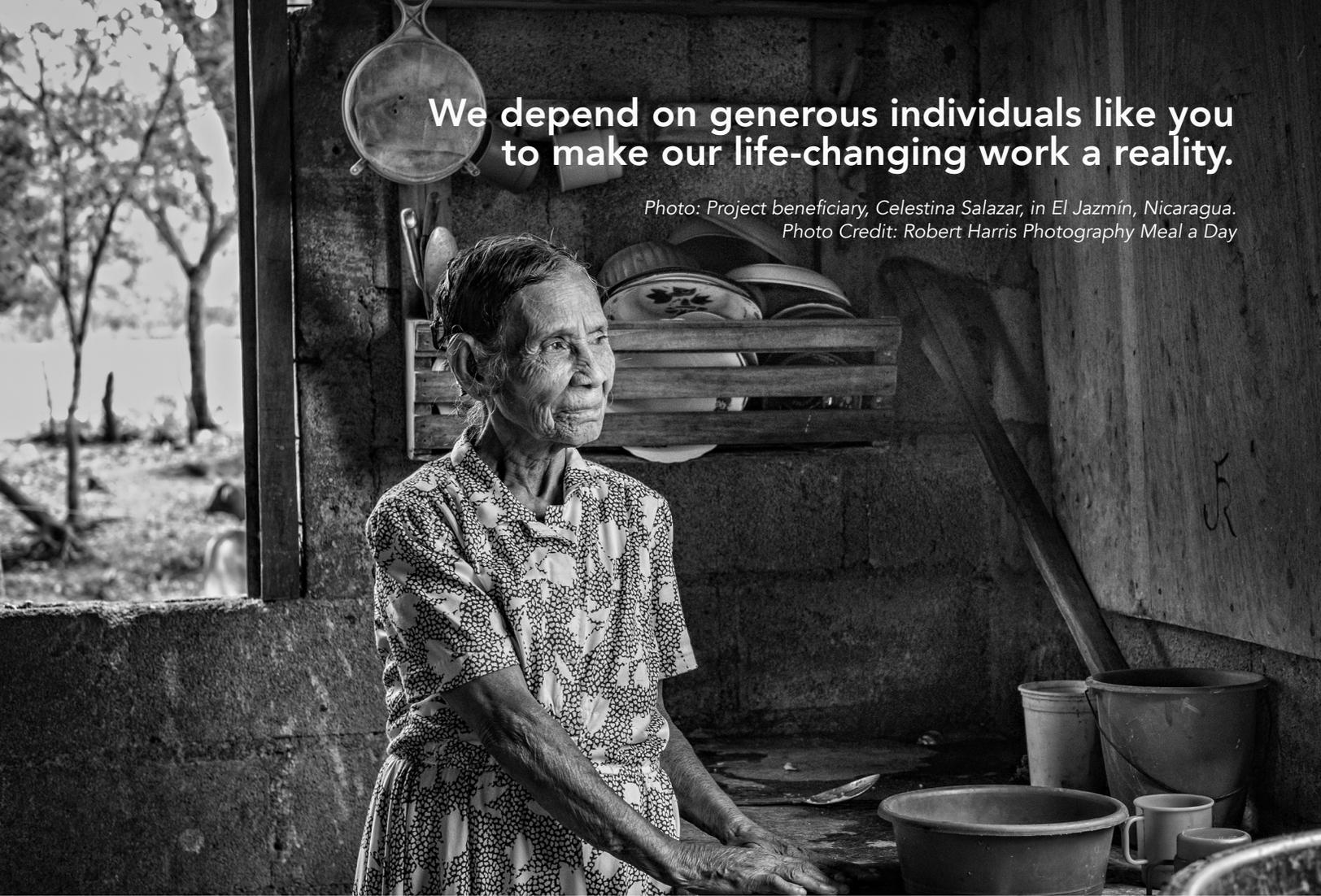
2017 REVENUE & EXPENSES

Service-Learning	\$167,234	9%
Contributions	\$203,352	11%
Grants	\$1,234,230	68%
Investment and Interest	\$86,960	5%
In-Kind Contributions	\$123,680	7%
Total Revenue for 2017	\$1,815,456	
Program Services	\$1,585,957	89%
Fundraising	\$51,694	3%
Management and General	\$144,009	8%
Total Expenses for 2017	\$1,781,660	
Net Assets	\$893,969	

Our audited financial statements are available on our website www.greenempowerment.org. 2017 financial statement audit was conducted by Richard Winkel, CPA.

We depend on generous individuals like you to make our life-changing work a reality.

Photo: Project beneficiary, Celestina Salazar, in El Jazmín, Nicaragua.
Photo Credit: Robert Harris Photography Meal a Day



HOW TO GIVE

Mail, call or visit our secure website.

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503-284-5774
www.greenempowerment.org

Include us in your estate plan.

Is Green Empowerment already in your will, trust or estate plans? Thank you! Your gift may remain anonymous, but please let us know.

Give through your workplace.

Connect to Green Empowerment through workplace giving, event sponsorship or employee matching.

Give a gift of change.

Not interested in creating a will or adding us to it? Consider honoring a family member or friend by donating in their name.



Green Empowerment is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1997.



Green Empowerment partners with 1% for the Planet. Learn more at www.onepercentfortheplanet.org.



green empowerment

Village Solutions for Global Change since 1997

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