Over the past 12 months, OHR has added new faces, deepened core programs, and taken important steps to strengthen the future of our organization and the communities we serve on Mfangano. From the launch of our new EK emergency boat and Navigators program, the successful completion of our first "Health Parenthood" Microclinic program, to an upgrade of 12 hours of solar-powered radio, we continue to roll-up our sleeves and do the work of growing community health. With 32 full-time employees in Kenya and a dozen dedicated volunteers in the US, OHR remains a family of activists, a coalition of friends. As we close the year, we are working tirelessly to strengthen our organizational structures, development strategies, HR policies, and communication systems that will allow us to tackle our mission and weather unexpected challenges across coming decades. We continue to believe in the real possibility of a healthy, resilient, self-sufficient island in the heart of East Africa; an example of partnership and homegrown creativity for communities around the world. To our friends, donors, and supporters- thanks for rolling up your sleeves with us.

- Chas Salmen, OHR Director

EK center has made a number of milestones in the past 12 months, from enrolling members more than 1000 within a year, saving more lives through our health Navigation and emergency services, involving social network groups in eliminating stigma, advocating for adherence and safe motherhood, increasing our bandwidth to revival of Suba language through a program on our radio station that has reached and enlightened majority of Subans who did not know even a single word in Suba. We are working towards making sure that we have improved the lives of majority across the small Island in Lake Victoria. OHR on the US side has also worked hard to secure funding to keep the programs running in Kenya. We are grateful to everyone who supported us in the past 12 months and welcome your support again as we work towards achieving more in the coming year. Always remember that live that were saved in the past 12 months was because of your support to EK and OHR.

- Richard Magerenge, EK Director

WITH PEACE, Chas Salmen and Richard Magerenge
OUR MISSION

We activate solidarity, information technology, and environmental sustainability on Mfangano Island in Western Kenya to cultivate a resilient, locally driven future for indigenous communities along the shores of Lake Victoria.

OUR STORY

The history of the Organic Health Response (OHR) is the story of grassroots ideas, a “worldwide web” of student activism, and a new generation’s vision for an island of resilience within a sea of HIV/AIDS despair. Through local and global partnerships we equip our rural villages with resources, training, and connections to respond “organically”—as unified communities—to the overwhelming socio-economic, epidemiological, and ecological challenges we face. Founded in 2008, OHR is registered in the USA as a 501(c)3 non-profit, and in Kenya as a Community Based Organization (CBO) on Mfangano Island.

OHR is headquartered out of the Ekialo Kiona Center (EK), a solar-powered IT and resource facility at Kitawi Beach on Mfangano Island. This 100% sustainably powered center provides free and unlimited access to computers and the region’s first broadband Internet to any resident who agrees to a confidential HIV test with a professional counselor. This center is an invaluable educational resource facility to empower the endangered Suba people with technology to reshape and strengthen the landscape of HIV care and prevention in the community.

OUR MODEL

OHR is rounded in the recognition that the health of human beings is fundamentally connected to the strength of their communities and the sustainability of their environments. We seek to augment health services by taking into consideration local understandings of disease, and integrating the power of biomedical science with the insight of indigenous knowledge. Through a series of integrated initiatives, OHR is cultivating a diverse community health ecosystem on Mfangano.
The remote communities of Mfangano face many serious and immediate health challenges. Poverty and disease has forced these vulnerable communities to make dangerous changes to their local environment in order squeeze out enough to survive.

With over 30% of the population infected with HIV, Mfangano and the surrounding islands represent one of the most HIV prevalent populations on this planet.

The sources of HIV-risk in this population are numerous and broad;

- An exploitive global Nile perch fishing industry
- The convergence of thousands of migrant fishermen from across East Africa
- The subsequent cash explosion within impoverished communities
- Intense gender inequities
- Customary trade practices such as *jaboya* (aka “fish-for-sex”)
- Widespread food insecurity
- Natural resource degradation

The numerous sources have culminated in a perfect storm of HIV/AIDS related risk and ill-health. Deforestation on the mountain and over-fishing in the lake has taken a huge toll, threatening annual rainfall and draining the local economy. This is a decisive time to address the serious environmental and health threats facing indigenous people living along the shores of Lake Victoria.

Without immediate and effective action, the indigenous Suba language and way of life may disappear within a single generation.
TOP 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014

Completed Mfangano Health Net (MHN) “Healthy Parenthood” Curriculum

- With 330 participants and nearly 30 community health workers, our sessions were designed to provide knowledge about proven ways to improve nutrition and breastfeeding, getting our friends talking about reproductive health issues, and provide tools for family planning.
- Thanks to support from the USAID Partnerships for Enhanced engagement in Research (PEER), the Segal Family Foundation, Microclinics International and our key leadership, Florida Otieno, Dan Omollo, Katie Fiorella and Matt Hickey.

Established 4 native tree nurseries to supply Mfangano Island with indigenous trees

- During this year’s rains, our team planted over 3,000 seedlings and has 4,000 more growing in our nurseries for 2015. Our reforestation efforts target retaining and regaining Mfangano forest coverage to protect our sacred forests, waterways and slope-proned areas.
- Big thanks to Derek McIntire for shooting our first reforestation documentary and to NOURISH International for helping us dig and develop the tree nurseries that support this initiative.

Installed new solar power system to allow EK-FM Radio to broadcast from 5 to 12 hours a day!

- Thanks to a first prize “scale-up” award in the Big Ideas at Berkeley competition, EK-FM has more than doubled its broadcast hours. As the only solar and wind powered community radio, this youth-directed station is also the only radio airing vernacular content to target the health crisis in this remote, indigenous population.
- Thanks to the Rise Up Foundation for their ongoing support, Kelsi Hines and Lindsey Scherloum with the competition, and Michael Denevan and Access: Energy with coordinating the technical logistics.

Launched new EK Emergency Boat and Health Navigation Program

- With 10 community health workers trained in advanced training in first response, urgent care coordination and patient advocacy, 43 residents have received support in navigating appropriate medical care.
- Lake Victoria waters will be safely navigated thanks to support from Glenwood Breakfast Rotary Club, residents of Glenwood Springs, CO, Lily Muldoon and Marco Salmen.

First Mfangano Ultra Marathon supports higher education on Mfangano

- This 30-mile race raised over $4,500 to support the EK Scholarship Program for talented secondary school students in the region. Organized by Lily Muldoon and Michael Denevan, we had one first time Mfangano competitor, Robinson Okeyo!
$80,000 Segal Family Foundation grant allows for microclinic expansion across Mfangano Island

- Through our long-standing partnership with Microclinics International, OHR will enroll 1,000 new microclinic participants across Mfangano, Ringiti and Remba islands. Beginning in January 2015, this expansion will include an 18-month randomized control trial (RCT) to evaluate microclinic impact on engagement in HIV care and treatment.

Upgraded broadband Internet speeds from 1 to 3 MBs

- Thanks to support from Craigslist Charitable Fund and an anonymous Google employee, this boost now allows Ekialo Kiona members and staff to connect to Internet resources at a much faster speed. Today, you can Skype in to any meeting on the island!

321 mountain bicycles arrive to EK Bike Shop

- The Ekialo Kiona Center received the third shipping container of bikes from partner, Bicycles for Humanity – Colorado. Bicycles are sold at discounted prices to EK Members who have undergone voluntary HIV counseling and testing (VCT) with one of EK’s VCT Counselors.
- Special thanks for all those Colorado residents who abandoned their bikes, as well as to Josh Pace and Richard Magerenge for coordinating this shipment across the ocean!

Global exchange connects student pen pals on Mfangano and Minnesota, USA

- EK IT Resource Center hosted local primary school students to meet their pen pals of 2 years in Minnesota, USA! Thanks to upgraded Internet speeds, this incredible resource allowed, for the first time ever, local students to use the Internet to connect across the globe.

Charted first Rotary Club of Mfangano Island!

- On December 12, 2014, Mfangano Island celebrated the establishment of the Rotary Club of Mbita Mfangano Island. The establishment of this club marks the beginning of Rotarian relationships between the US, Mfangano and Western Kenya.
- Thank you to Rotary Club Kisumu and Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary Club for helping us get established!
OHR FINANCIALS

2014 OVERVIEW

USA

Income: $308,555 USD
- Grant: 87%
- Volunteer Fees: 1%
- SEP Sales: 1%
- Individual Donor: 11%

Expenditures: $219,191 USD
- Administration: 1%
- Equipment & Contracts: 6%
- Salaries: 11%
- Kenya: 82%

KENYA

Income: $182,260 USD
- OHR USA: 99%
- Bike Sales: 1%

Expenditures: $180,108 USD
- EK Salaries: 20%
- EK Operations: 8%
- MHN HIV: 8%
- MHN Nutrition: 9%
- Radio: 5%
- Health Navigators: 4%
- Agriculture: 2%
- IT: 7%
- Scholarships: 3%
- Bikes: 1%
- SEP: 1%
- Volunteers: 1%
- Research: 31%
Without the endless support from our dedicated donors and committed partners and volunteers, OHR would not be able to maintain the fully functioning Ekialo Kiona Center at Kitawi Beach on Mfangano Island, Kenya.

OHR is based on a unique collaborative system. Our programs are designed and implemented by Mfangano residents working in small teams with student volunteers from around the world, and supported by IT industries, international “Green” movements, and global health partners. As an inspired cooperative of grass-roots activists, we are working together to plant seeds of solidarity and cultivate local visions of wellbeing.

**OHR SUPPORTERS**

- Awesome Without Borders
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Berkeley Big Ideas Competition
- Berkeley Clausen Fellowship
- Brian Frederick and Family
- Bruce and Jan Shugart
- Chicago Community Foundation
- Craigslist Charitable Foundation
- Craig Newmark
- David Akerson Family
- David Reinisch Family
- Forrest Lowell
- Fort Collin’s Breakfast Rotary Club
- Glenwood Springs Rotary Club
- National Academy of Science
- Richard and Marianne Reinisch Foundation
- Rise Up Foundation
- Families of Rutherford Elementary School
- Segal Family Foundation

**OHR PARTNERS**

- Access:Energy
- Bicycles for Humanity – Colorado
- Byece Broadcast and Technologies
- Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES)
- Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET)
- Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)
- Microclinics International (MCI)
- Ministry of Health - Kenya
- University of California, San Franscico (UCSF)