

# The Advocacy Project

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Dawa Sherpa from Texas A and M University was one of seven students who served as Peace Fellows in 2022. Dawa is seen here at her host organization, Women Advocacy Project in Zimbabwe, which helps girls produce and sell soap as a way to resist early marriage.

[www.advocacynet.org](http://www.advocacynet.org)



## From our Director

This year's report celebrates our emergence from the pandemic, shaken but determined. COVID-19 hit our partner organizations hard, because many were already impoverished and lacking services. But it also reminded us of their resilience and creativity in the face of crisis.

The River Gypsies of Bangladesh were a case in point. Living on the remote island of Mayadip, without a health center, they were completely isolated during the pandemic. In addition, the lock-down closed off the mainland market for their fish which they depend upon. Undaunted, our partner, the Subornogram Foundation, mobilized students and ferried old and vulnerable Gypsies to mainland hospitals, as shown in the photo.

Initiatives like these help us to appreciate the importance of our mission and refine our model of support for marginalized communities, as described in this report. Thank you for your interest!

**Iain Guest**





## Community partners – marginalized but unbowed

Tribal people in the Indian state of Odisha were among 13 marginalized communities supported by AP in 2022. Poor medical services and inaccessibility exposed many tribal villages to the COVID-19 virus. We invested in a start-up by our Indian partner Jeeva Rekha Parisad ("Lifeline") that vaccinated 876 vulnerable villagers. They included Sombari Kunkel from Bhalunka village, seen above.



### Managing Albinism

Families with albinism can face ostracism in East Africa. Roseanne Wairimu, seen with her daughter Kylie, is one of ten mothers in Nairobi who told their stories through embroidery in 2022.





## Leaders of innovation

AP's model depends on community leaders like Josephine Lengipiani, a businesswoman from the Samburu tribe in Northwest Kenya who grinds maize for Pokot customers and sells it back to them. Josephine's entrepreneurship strengthens ties between the two tribes, which have long fought over cattle. In 2022 she helped to set up an inter-tribal network of businesswomen. See page 7.



### Stella Makena, visionary

Stella founded *Shield of Faith* for marginalized women in the Kibera settlement to tackle food insecurity and pollution. The team produces *Lishe-Grow* leachate from compost for kitchen gardens.





## Story telling through embroidery

AP encourages partners to tell their stories through stitching.

Some of the most powerful images have come from ten women who were forced into sexual slavery by rebels in Northern Uganda. Victoria Nyanjura started Women in Action for Women (WAW) for the survivors and has embraced story-telling with enthusiasm. She is seen with a block by Stella Awor, describing Stella's assault.



### COVID terror

In 2021-2022 AP partners produced 367 embroidered stories, including 208 about the COVID-19 pandemic. Anne Kihui's story shows her weeping beside the grave of her father, a COVID victim in Kenya.





## Start-ups for social change

Naanyu Leserpeno, a Samburu shopkeeper, was one of ten Kenyan businesswomen who formed a network in 2022 to promote trade between women from the Pokot and Samburu tribes with support from Children Peace Initiative Kenya (CPIK) and \$5,000 from AP. A second start-up organized a “cow camp” at which 200 warriors from the Pokot and Samburu agreed to share pasture during drought.



## The creativity of refugees

In 2022 AP invested \$13,272 in 7 start-ups in Kenya, India, Nepal, the US, Uganda and Mali. 1,347 stakeholders participated. Left: AP raised over \$2,000 to help an Afghan refugee family in Maryland launch a catering start-up.



## Story-telling mobilizes communities

Embroidery helps partners express themselves, acquire skills, earn money - and organize for action. The image above by Abigael Kwamboka provided the logo and inspiration for campaigns in Nairobi, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and India that secured almost 6,000 vaccinations for vulnerable and marginalized people.



### Abigael the brave

Abigael Kwamboka, a single mother in the settlement of Kangemi, Nairobi, wears the campaign tee-shirt inspired by her design.





## Income generation

We incorporate income-generation into new start-ups and purchased two fishing boats for River Gypsies in Bangladesh. The boats caught 1.76 tons of fish which sold for \$3,574. Half paid the wages of crew members. The rest supported a feeding kitchen for over 200 Gypsy families. The project was self-sustaining within 2 months.



## Embroidery for sale

AP paid partners \$3,552 to make bags and embroidery in 2022 and opened a new online store, *Southern Stitchers*, to sell their embroidery. Camel bags made by Abi Konate in Mali, left, sell for \$40.





## From story-telling to action

Stella Makena, left, heads a campaign by *Shield of Faith* in Kibera to reduce garbage and improve nutrition. In 2022 fifteen members composted 1.3 tons of food waste, grew vegetables in kitchen gardens, and earned almost \$400 from sales of *Lishe-Grow* leachate. Photo: Stella and Eunice with Chinese cabbage grown in Eunice's garden.



### Rachel the advocate

AP support has encouraged community activists like Rachel Afundi, a Kenyan advocate for disability rights in Nairobi who helped to launch the Kangemi Advocacy and Self-Help Group. The group secured almost 2,000 vaccinations in Kangemi.





## Changing behavior and policy

Women Advocacy Project launched a start-up in 2019 in Harare, Zimbabwe to combat early marriage, a chronic threat to girls that is driven by poverty. WAP selected four girl “ambassadors” and began training girls to make soap. In 2022, the project sold 14,000 bottles of *Clean Girl* soap. No girl in the program has yet married under 18.



### Trish Makanhiwa leads by example

Trish was the first “girl ambassador” selected by WAP and is much admired by her peers in Epworth. She is one of three girls producing *Clean Girl* soap and oversees girl clubs in 4 neighborhoods.





## Advancing SDGs

AP's partner in Gulu, Uganda, the Gulu Disabled Persons Union installed WASH (accessible toilets, girls' changing room, hand-washing and training) at the Awach Primary School – the fifth school to benefit since 2015. Enrollment has risen in the schools. AP has raised over \$30,000 for the WASH program, which targets five UN Sustainable Development Goals.



### Patrick Ojok, WASH champion

GDPU's WASH model engages parents and owes much to the vision of Patrick Ojok, GDPU's director and a former teacher. Helped by his deputy Emma Ajok, Patrick is transforming education in Gulu District.

# Volunteers - Our 2022 Peace Fellows



**Therese McCarry**  
(Georgetown University)  
NEFAD Nepal



**Kyle Aloof (Texas A and M)**  
GDPU Uganda



**Julia Holladay (George Washington University)**  
CPI Kenya



**Dawa Sherpa (Texas A and M)** WAP Zimbabwe



**Daniel Gurevitch (University of Pennsylvania)** NEFAD Nepal - remote



**Aimee Benitez (UCLA, California)** WAP Zimbabwe - remote



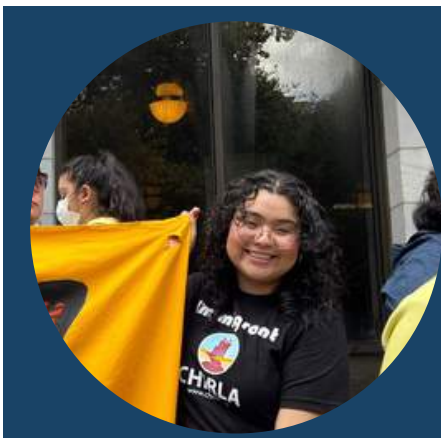
**Evan Cranmer (University of Maryland)**  
River Gypsies in Bangladesh - remote





## Close encounters

AP Fellows were on the front lines for social justice in 2022. Julia Holladay, right, was one of four graduate students deployed to Africa and Asia. Julia is seen with Monica Kinyua from Children Peace Initiative Kenya at a cow camp for warrior/herders in northwest Kenya. Julia helped to raise almost \$9,000 for two CPIK start-ups and helped CPIK to devise a response to climate change. Monica's verdict: "Julia is awesomely awesome!"



**"This summer has strengthened my love for non-profits!"**

Aimee Benitez was one of 4 undergraduate Fellows in 2022. Aimee advocates for undocumented migrants in the US and attended court hearings to strengthen the DACA Act during her fellowship (photo).



## Training that empowers

AP helps talented partners develop and share their skills. Kushma Chaudhary, shown above, learned stitching from Bobbi Fitzsimmons, AP's quilt coordinator in Nepal in 2019. Kushma is seen with Tharu dishwashers in 2022 during a training in Dang District organized by Backward Society Education, an AP partner, and Therese McCarry, a Peace Fellow.



### Christine Kibuka, trainer

As well as selling her own exquisite embroidery, Christine has led four AP trainings for women from Kangemi and Kibera in Nairobi. Most of her trainees sold embroidery in 2022.





## Information advocacy

In 2022 AP published 17 bulletins that were opened by 26,253 subscribers. One investigation exposed failures in the resettlement of Afghans airlifted to the US after the fall of Kabul (photo). Chary Izquierdo wrote: “I love, LOVE this article and the way you so aptly captured all the frustration of volunteers and refugees dealing with intransigent and/or insufficiently staffed government organizations.”



### Jenna Whitney, friend of refugees

A former government contractor, Jenna worked tirelessly to ease the pressure on Afghans arriving in Maryland and funded volunteer teams to support 27 Afghan families.



## The high school connection

AP worked with several high schools in 2022. Nahier Tafere and Elena Cura, above, joined friends from the Wakefield school in Arlington to make *Clean Girl* soap in support of girls in Zimbabwe (page 9). Nina Thakur headed a second soap-making team in Atlanta GA (below). The two groups raised over \$1,200 and paid for a semester of schooling for 30 girls in Zimbabwe.



### Nina Thakur, our youngest Fellow

Nina was 16 when she joined AP in 2021. Nina organized friends from the VIBHA club at the South Forsyth High School in Atlanta to make *Clean Girl* soap and handed over to a new team when she graduated,





## Promotion and outreach

AP staff promoted the work of partners at over 40 events in the US.

Iain Guest spoke at the World Bank and addressed 10 government agencies. They included the National Institutes for Health, where Iain wore Abigail's vaccination campaign logo from Nairobi (photo). AP also met with 12 chapters of Dining for Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Rotary clubs, quilt guilds, and high schools and served as a coach for GlobalGiving in the run-up to Giving Tuesday.

“It was an honor to have you with us and to hear about The Advocacy Project. What a tremendous and impactful mission you shared with us. We loved hearing the powerful stories. You are truly changing lives and bringing so much hope to marginalized communities”

– Monica Hansen, National Institutes of Health



## Quilting connects North and South

The *Sister Artists* project helps fiber artists from Africa and the US to produce art quilts together. Our 78 participants in 2022 included Irene Akinyi in Kibera, left, and Veronica Mays from Portsmouth Rhode Island whose *Finest Rhinoceros* fetched \$250 at auction. The 2022 *Sister Artists* made 39 quilts which generated \$11,944 for the artists in Africa. Their quilts were exhibited at the Textile Museum in Washington and they met later at a Zoom organized by AP.



### **“Sister Artists is a noble undertaking”**

HE Ronald Ekitela, deputy Kenyan ambassador to the US, praised the collaboration between Kenyan and American fiber artists during an exhibition of their quilts at the Textile Museum.





## Donations from the heart

AP depends on the generosity of individuals who want to reward innovation and few have been more generous than Cristy West, who donated \$1,000 to purchase a fishing boat for the River Gypsies in Bangladesh (above) and was rewarded by having the boat named after her. AP manages appeals for 5 partners on GlobalGiving, which attracted \$29,955 from 77 friends in 2022. Our thanks to Humanity United for supporting our quilting program.



**“How exciting to have a boat named after me!”**

- Cristy West, artist and philanthropist





## People of AP

AP attracts creative individuals and 49 friends volunteered in 2022. They included Bobbi Fitzsimmons, one of nine AP Board members, seen above, who traveled to Africa with Delaney Rogers to train partners in stitching. Bobbi is seen here with Nighty Achieng from WAW in Northern Uganda. Our Board includes four former Peace Fellows.

**Board:** Scott Allen, Tom Carver, Karen Delaney, Colleen Denny, Talley Diggs, Bobbi Fitzsimmons, Devin Greenleaf, Iain Guest, Larry Ingeneri, Delaney Rogers. **Staff and contractors:** Iain Guest (ED), Mary Ellen Cain (Accounts and administration), Gio Liguori (Video), Josh Nichols and Matt Heinrich (Web maintenance), Beverly Orr (Accountant), Jonathan Bramell (Design), Ed Suarez (Auditor). **Peace Fellows:** Julia Holladay, Kyle Aloof, Dawa Sherpa, Therese McCarry, Aimee Benitez, Daniel Gurevitch, Evan Cranmer. **High Schools:** Lalitha Appana, Nina Thakur, Sahasra Thokala, Aum Ragavendrisha, Aishwariya Vijaykumar, Radish Gupta, Saanvi Rambole, Elena Cura, Nahier Tafere, Mercedes Kim, Ana Ilinca Ignat, Gigi Stephens, Paris Pope, Natalia Paley, Emma Ibrahim, Olivia Kamber, Michael O'Grady, Kate Mulvaney, Maya McCarthy. **Quilters:** Bobbi Fitzsimmons, Merry May, Gill Rebelo, Beth Suddaby, Anne Watson, Colleen Ansbaugh, Dawn Piasta, Eleanor Levie, Deborah Weir, Carol Churchill, Peg Sullivan, Mary Harned, Donna Bergman, Susan Louis, Janice Ewing, Judy Miller, Yvonne Miller, Nancy Hershberger.



# 2022 Financials

## **Income**

Unrestricted Contributions	\$117,655
Restricted Contributions	\$106,709
Program revenue	\$16,529

<b>Total Revenue and support</b>	<b>\$240,843</b>
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## **Expenses**

Salaries	\$66,140
Payroll taxes	\$6,592
Fundraising	\$2,680
Grants	\$58,411
Information technology	\$6,614
Insurance	\$4,391
Meetings and conferences	\$7,219
Professional fees	\$11,140
Miscellaneous	\$1,206
Office expenses	\$7,226
Rent	\$13,156
Stipends	\$10,338
Travel	\$11,372

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$206,485</b>
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<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSET:</b>	<b>\$34,408</b>
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# 2022 Stakeholders

**Communities:** Afghan refugees in the US; Single mothers in Kibera, Nairobi; Mothers of children with albinism in Nairobi; River Gypsies in Bangladesh; Girls in inner-city Harare, Zimbabwe, at risk from early marriage; Dishwashers from the Tharu people in Nepal; Pastoralists in Northwest Kenya; Families of the disappeared in Nepal; Persons with disability in Gulu District, Uganda; Primary school students in Gulu District, Uganda; Survivors of forced marriage and pregnancy in Gulu District, Uganda; Women displaced by conflict in Mali.

**Leaders:** Stella Makena, Caren Mybyaki and Christine Kibuka in Nairobi, Kenya; Constance Mugari, Dickson Akenga and Trish Makanhiwa in Harare, Zimbabwe; Ram Bhandari, Pinky Dangi, Kancham Chaurdhary and Kushma Chaudhary from the Tharu people in Nepal; Hilary Bukuno from the Gabra tribe in Northern Kenya; Sadiqa Basiri, Afghanistan; Shahed Kayes, Sunargaon, Bangladesh; Mariam Seck and Abi Konate in Bamako, Mali; Simon Ojok, Emma Ajok, and Victoria Nyanjura in Gulu District, Uganda; Manoranjan Mishra in Odisha State, India.

**Partner organizations:** Shield of Faith, Nairobi; Kangemi Advocacy and Self-Help Group, Nairobi; Children Peace Initiative Kenya, Nairobi; Gulu Disabled Persons Union, Gulu, Uganda; Women in Action for Women, Gulu, Uganda; Women Advocacy Project, Zimbabwe; Backward Society Education, Tulsipor, Nepal; Network of Families of the Disappeared, Bardiya District, Nepal; Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Quang Binh province, Vietnam; The Subornogram Foundation working with River Folk, Mayadip Island Bangladesh; Jeeva Rekha Parisad (Lifeline), Odisha State India; Girl Up Club of Wakefield High School, Arlington VA; Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC; VIBHA Club of the South Forsyth High School, Atlanta, GA;



# 2022 Benefactors

**Organizations:** Brimstone Club, Global Giving, Humanity United, North Kingstown Rotary Club, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Dublin, Ohio), The Sierra-O'Connell Family Fund, Zonta Club of Washington, Jennifer Jessica Cohen Foundation.

**Individuals:** Donna Bergman, Carol Churchill, Lillian Coliver, Roberta Daskin, Michele de Nevers, Heather Dolstra, Charles Dougherty, Janice Ewing, Lloyd Feinberg and Betsy Marcotte, Bobbi Fitzsimmons, Van Fitzsimmons, Rosa Goldsmith, Donna Greene, Lawrence and Kim Ingeneri, Susan Jacobson, Kei Kawabata, Lisa Kehrle, Erin Lapham, Joyce Leader, Judy Leff, Bert Lockwood, Susan and Michael Martin, Dara McCarthy, Patricia McCarthy, Donald McInnes, Glenn Moser, Sandra Shaw, Carol Sibley, Barbara Stetson, Rosemary Stewart, Joan Taylor, Charlotte Vetter-Burmeister, Lukas Weitbrecht, Sue Willows-Raznikov, Beth Winslow, Betty Jean Young, Georgia Young

**World Bank Staff/Retirees:** Taru Bhargava, Patricia Bliss-Guest, Pamela Crivelli, Cecile Ferro, Maria Galang, Susan Goldmark, Kei Kawabata, Sharon Kim, Beth Mwangi, Thondaiman Nagarajan, Mona Niebuhr, Funke Oyewole, Purnima Prakash, Steven Shalita, Bowen Uhlenkamp

**GlobalGiving:** Ivan Alba, Robert Allen, Caroline Berksoy, George Biddle, Charles E. Biggio, Fred and Joan Bliss, Anna Bliss, Patricia A. Bliss-Guest, Elizabeth Branda, Mary Ellen Cain, Jeff Carmel, Thomas Carver, Margaret Chisholm, Anne Chmielewski, Mark Clesh, Sandra Cronauer-Mitra, Karen Delaney, Susan Denvir, Talley Diggs, Susan Eckman, Vivian Theresa, Akure Etyang, Carolyn Faulkner, Bobbi Fitzsimmons, Diana Garcia, Colleen Gibson, Terry J. and Paula C. Golden, David Gough, Devin Greenleaf, Iain Guest, Sigrun Hansen, Kathy Hays, Kim Hays, Camilla L. Hengstler, Jon Holladay, Julia Holladay, Kim Ingeneri, Lawrence Ingeneri, Bernadette Jordan, John Kenyon, Savannah Kopp, Janice Kurth, Bert Lockwood, Tab London, Konnye Long, Susan Louis, Nancy Lujan, Andrew A. MacGregor, Glenda Mah, Esther Makhulo, Pat McCarthy, Sadie McVey, Misty Mohr, Laurie Muldowney, Karen Mulhouser, Karin Orr, Imogen Paradise, Katherine Rentfrow, Patrizia Rossi, Elise Samaniego, Philip Silvers, Alison Soldano, Julie Stiller, Kelsi Swenson, Leslie Thornton, Maximilian van Praag, Jane Wanjiru Wamwirwa, Cristy West, James Whitney, Jessica Williams, Mike and Sandy Wilson, Nancy J. Zimmerman.