



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Planet Aid

For the Environment, For People

SERVING IN TIMES OF CRISIS



76 million meals were served to students in the USDA-funded Food for Knowledge program between 2012 to 2020. ——— Maputo Province, Mozambique



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Our MISSION

Planet Aid's mission is to inform, mobilize, and inspire individuals and communities to work together to bring about worldwide environmental and social progress.

Planet Aid recognizes that the Earth's resources are finite and that good stewardship is essential for the well-being of current and future generations. Our used textile recycling program and the projects we support aim to protect the environment, reduce waste, and increase the efficient use of vital resources.

We work to strengthen and organize communities, reduce poverty, promote small enterprise development, support sustainable local food production, improve access to training and quality education, increase health awareness, and encourage healthy lifestyles. We embrace the principles of equality and self-determination in all that we do and foster cooperation and understanding among peoples across the planet. Disadvantaged populations are our priority, and we seek to empower them to create lasting positive change.

[Donate to Planet Aid](#)



**Fred Olsson, CEO & President
Planet Aid**

From Our CEO

The year 2020 was unlike any we've seen in Planet Aid's history. From one challenge to the next, change became a way of life for all of us. COVID-19 changed the way we interact with each other and reminded us all how global our community truly is. Through shutdowns and crises, we continued to serve our mission. For Planet Aid, that meant changing how we collect and distribute clothing. We added new sanitary protocols to ensure our clothing collection was safe and added a new program called Give Back Box, where donors could mail clothing directly to our donation centers. We couldn't have done this without our dedicated and hardworking staff, who worked to achieve Planet Aid's mission throughout the year.

For our international development partners, COVID-19 meant adjustments in how people received access to food, water, sanitation, and education. Our co-members within the Humana People to People Movement rose to address the needs of the global communities they served, as Planet Aid did the same at home. After 8 years of cross-continental collaboration, our Food for Knowledge program in Mozambique came to an end in 2020. With quick and decisive action, we were able to shift the program to remote learning and continue serving the children and the program.

As we look to the future, we recognize the inherent challenges created by climate change and the likelihood of new pandemics. We must act, and act globally, to address the causes of a changing climate and the fallout of adapting to it. And, in that same spirit, we must act globally to create sustainable development for those who live in poverty. Whatever challenges come, Planet Aid will remain focused on our mission, for the Environment and for People.



Our MEMBERSHIP

Since its founding, Planet Aid has been dedicated to the Humana People to People (HPP) movement. HPP is a Federation of independent, locally registered organizations, each operating autonomously with their own board of directors and local staff. Overall, HPP members are engaged in international solidarity, cooperation, and development to combat the world's major humanitarian, social, and environmental challenges. The goal of HPP is to achieve increased positive impact on global development through strengthening cooperation among members.

HPP member associations reach approximately 12 million people annually through innovative programs in education, community development, sustainable agriculture/climate change adaptation, and health. By working together as a network and leveraging local implementation, HPP is a conduit for lasting change in the developing world.



The activities of HPP are aligned with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



Celebrating Eight Years of **FOOD FOR KNOWLEDGE**

Planet Aid's Food for Knowledge (FFK) project, 2012-2020, manifested our mission in an extraordinary way and serves as a special example of what cross-continental collaboration can achieve.

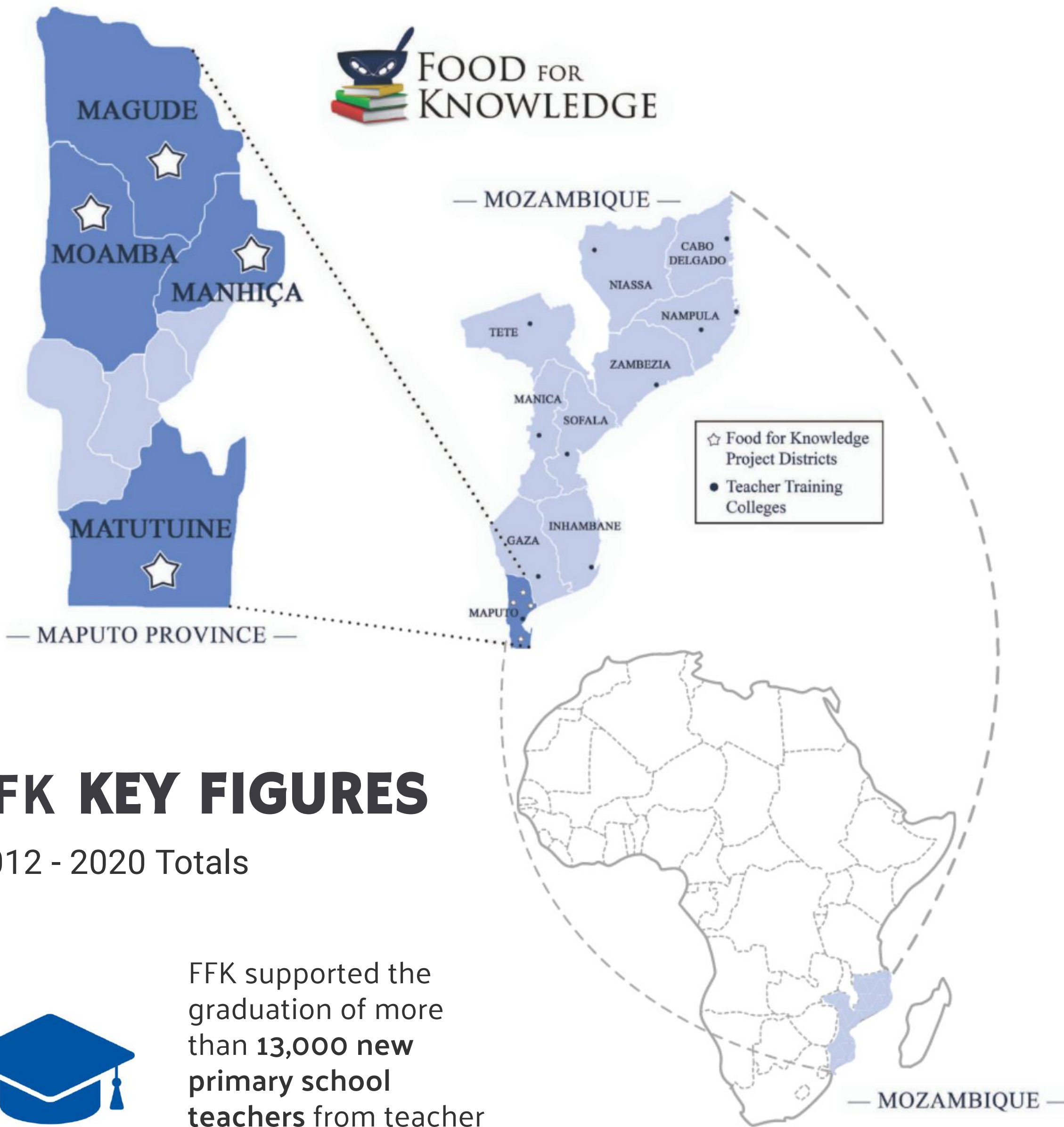
For eight years, Planet Aid, together with Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP) Mozambique, the Government of Mozambique, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other partners, addressed the health, well-being, and education of schoolchildren in Mozambique's Maputo Province. Implemented over two USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education grants, FFK's strategy combined school feeding with nutritional education, bilingual literacy, on-site food production, construction, water and sanitation, and teacher training.



Projecto de Alimentação Escolar
Comida para o Saber



Food for Knowledge



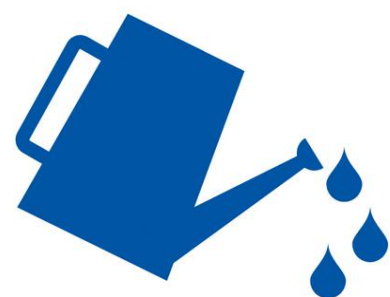
FFK KEY FIGURES

2012 - 2020 Totals



FFK supported the graduation of more than **13,000 new primary school teachers** from teacher training colleges.

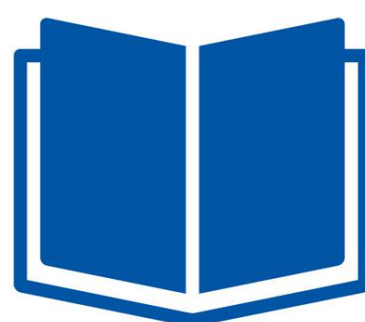
Eight large gardens increased production to supplement diets, distribute to communities, and generate income.



More than **76 million meals** were distributed to **90,000+ children**.



U.S. farmers produced over **7,000 metric tons** of fortified corn and soy flour (CSB+) for the USDA-funded FFK school feeding program



Children participating in the program at FFK schools outperformed the control group in reading individual words by nearly **250 percent**.



Learning about raising vegetables in one of the eight Food for Knowledge gardens

————— **Maputo Province, Mozambique**



Children learn better when they are well-nourished. That concept was central to Food for Knowledge (FFK) and served as the basis for the project's other interventions. Through FFK, over 90,000 students at 272 primary schools in four districts participated actively in the program to improve their own learning, health and wellbeing. FFK invested in school gardens to provide nutritional education – supported by the American Soybean Association's WISHH program – and produce local food to complement the feeding activity. In particular, eight large gardens increased production over the course of the project to supplement diets, distribute to communities, and generate income. The management of these gardens by community members was formalized at the end of the project to support their continued success.

The Gardens of **FOOD FOR KNOWLEDGE**

Eight large gardens were created to supplement diets, distribute to communities, and generate incomes.



Over 50% of the students attending the schools participating in Food for Knowledge are girls.

——— **Maputo Province, Mozambique**



Food for Knowledge BILINGUAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Learning in your native language is vital.

FFK's bilingual literacy program emerged in the second phase of the project to serve as a model for bilingual education nationwide. Students in the area natively speak Xiochangana and Xirhonga while the national language of Mozambique is Portuguese. In partnership with Cambridge Education, FFK worked with Mozambique's Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH) to develop academic materials and curricula for Portuguese and native language instruction. These materials and the cooperation established through the process, serve as a good example and as an inspiration for MINEDH as they move forward to scale up their national literacy program in the future.





A mother works with her child on a lesson transmitted via radio.

— **Mozambique**

Virtual Learning in MOZAMBIQUE

Innovation, creativity, collaboration, and the will of the human spirit were key to keeping Planet Aid's Food for Knowledge (FFK) project in Mozambique on track amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Implemented by our local partner, ADPP, FFK's in-class literacy interventions at 271 primary schools deftly pivoted to a virtual format. Working alongside the Mozambican Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH), FFK mitigated learning gaps by designing and delivering programs via radio and television broadcasts.

The initiative aimed to reach 75% of a total 6,638 served by the FFK Bilingual Literacy program, monitored through mobile communications, telephone calls to parents, and an attended hotline to request parental feedback. The number of transmissions increased greatly with 960 lessons transmitted in the local languages Xiochangana, Xirhonga and Portuguese in June and July 2020.

FFK also supported remote instruction for students and teachers at ADPP's Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) operated nationally. From the end of March to the end of August, all 11 TTCs of ADPP Mozambique, as well as One World University, were utilizing distance learning. Approximately 95% of the students communicated daily with their schools and trainers. As of June 2020, the colleges were utilizing online platforms including Google Classroom and WhatsApp. In July and August, distance learning at the TTCs expanded to include short audio and visual clips as part of instruction as well as health and sanitization content to help students prevent COVID-19 in their communities.

Food for Knowledge PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

FFK additionally supported the graduation of new primary school teachers from ADPP's teacher training colleges (TCCs), permanent brick-and-mortar structures throughout the country. Graduates are employed in government schools throughout Mozambique, lowering teacher-student ratios and improving learning outcomes for millions of students over the course of their teaching careers.





Student-teachers become active participants in building new and relevant knowledge during their training.

ADPP's Teacher Training College in Maputo, Mozambique



The Legacy of FOOD FOR KNOWLEDGE

Although FFK has ended, the FFK spirit will remain in the schools and communities, with the continued participation of the Mozambican government. FFK has formed a strong foundation for local action and ownership, which will continually improve learning outcomes, local food production, and a better school environment for all.



Food for Knowledge ended in 2020 during a challenging year. Diligent work from brave and dedicated staff kept the program running during the COVID-19 pandemic as learning shifted to TV, internet, and radio.





School Feeding after **FOOD FOR KNOWLEDGE**

Throughout the project, FFK worked as a key partner with Mozambique's Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH) and school feeding implementers to advance the expansion of the national school feeding program, Projecto de Alimentação Escolar (PRONAE). A critical milestone was achieved in 2020 with the launch of a formal coordination platform of partners, donors, and the government to advance steps towards a national school feeding law and dedicated line item for school feeding in the national budget.

In addition, in 2019, MINEDH approved the Nutrition Education Manual, developed under FFK in collaboration with the American Soybean Association's WISHH program. The manual remains an important tool for teaching and incorporating nutrition into primary school programs throughout Mozambique. FFK has undoubtedly formed a strong foundation for local action and ownership, which will continually improve learning outcomes, local food production, and a better school environment for all.



“I saw my children motivated to study. They even participated in competitions to write essays or complete multiplication tables. This was undoubtedly due to the motivation provided by the Food for Knowledge project, not only through the meals but also the extra-curricular clubs in which my children participated. On behalf of all the mothers in the village of Moamba, I want to thank everyone who made this support possible, including the teachers and FFK partners.”

Alice Ntila, parent and resident of Moamba district in Maputo Province

Stories about **FOOD FOR KNOWLEDGE**

“When I learned that there would be a project at the Completa de Mangolene Primary School that would provide porridge, I hurried to volunteer as a cook because I knew it would help our children. After we started, we saw many changes in the children of the community. Even those that had dropped out of school came back. We saw children studying in Xichangana things that we never thought possible.”

Anita Carlos Cossa, parent and volunteer in the District of Magde



The Food for Knowledge JOURNEY IN PICTURES



Performance by children during one of many FFK events carried out in collaboration with MINEDH.

FFK installed clean water systems at schools. The project also constructed latrines and hand-washing systems and ensured that school councils and communities were trained in the use, maintenance, and repair of the infrastructure.





Volunteers worked alongside project and government agricultural technicians to train in planting, harvesting, as well as the use and maintenance of tools and equipment.

USDA officials visit the FFK project in Manhica.

From left to right:

Birgit Holm
ADPP Mozambique
Executive Director

Isaias Wate
Food for Knowledge
Project Coordinator

Clay Hamilton
USDA
Associate Administrator of
Agriculture

Susan Waage
USDA
Office of Capacity Building
and Development





Teaching Reading in Mozambique



Watch later



Share



Watch on  YouTube

FFK distributed over 250,000 bilingual student books, teacher guides and reading materials





Jennifer Adams, USAID Mission Director, speaks at the celebration of International Mother Language Day at a project school in Muda, Matutuine on Feb. 21, 2020.

Carmelita Namashulua, Minister of Education and Human Development in Mozambique, visits FFK in 2020.





Our Commitment to the **ENVIRONMENT**

The Earth's resources are finite and good stewardship is essential for the well-being of current and future generations. Our used textile recycling program and the projects we support aim to protect the environment, reduce waste, increase the efficient use of vital resources, and fund development programs in some of the poorest communities in the world.



Our Stance Against **TEXTILE WASTE**

According to the latest data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), clothing and textile products comprise nearly 8 percent of all municipal solid waste dumped or incinerated. That's more than 11 million tons being added annually to landfills, which are the third-largest source of methane emissions in the U.S. Textile reuse and recycling has the same potential impact as aluminum can recycling for reducing greenhouse gases.



In 2020, Planet Aid collected 70 million pounds of textiles, but there's still more we can do. According to the EPA, Americans create 17 million tons of textile waste annually. Of that waste, 66% is landfilled, 21% of it is burned, and only 13% of it is recycled. Planet Aid is ramping up production to handle the expected increase of textiles being recycled

Recycled clothing lives on to benefit those in developing markets around the world, where clothing is sold in local shops benefitting local economies, rather than going to waste in landfills. We believe an informed donor cares about how resources are used, and our donor's generosity will always be appreciated.

WHY SHOULD I DONATE MY TEXTILES?

Q: How Much Textile Waste Do We Generate?



A: 17 Million Tons of textile waste is created each year in the United States.¹

That means that each person tosses out 81 pounds of textiles every year.²

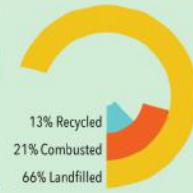
Each shirt represents 1 million tons of textile waste

Q: Where Does It All Go?

A: The Landfill.

11.3 million tons of textile waste is landfilled each year.¹ That's 8% of all landfilled waste.

While all textiles are recyclable, only 13% of US textile waste is diverted from the waste stream to be recycled.³



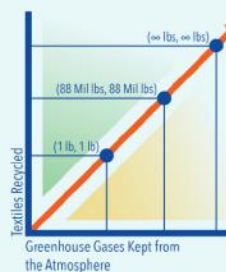
Q: What Does This Mean for Our Environment?

A: A Lot of Pollution.

Landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the US.⁴ Landfills also contribute to groundwater and soil pollution.



The amount of greenhouse gas emissions from US landfills is equivalent to the emissions from 20.6 million passenger cars.⁵



Q: How Does Donating to Planet Aid Help?

A: It Saves Landfill Space and Reduces Greenhouse Gases.

In 2019, Planet Aid helped divert 88 million pounds of textiles from disposal in the US. That kept 88 million pounds of greenhouse gases from entering our atmosphere!⁶

Q: How Do I Donate?



A: Find a Bin!

Planet Aid has more than 9,000 clothing donation bins in 15 states and Washington, D.C. We also accept donations at our thrift store in Rockville, Md.

Or, Mail in Your Donation!

Planet Aid has partnered with Give Back Box to promote recycling, reuse, and humanitarian projects in the developing world. All without the need to leave your home.

Visit planetaid.org for more info

DONATE TO PLANET AID TODAY!

¹ www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data, ² www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2018/01/ready-waste-americas-clothing-crisis, ³ EPA estimate based on data from the American Textile Recycling Service, ⁴ www.epa.gov/report-environment/wastes, ⁵ www.epa.gov/lmop/basic-information-about-landfill-gas, ⁶ www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-11/documents/2018_ff_fact_sheet.pdf



Donating Clothing REMOTELY

Donate through
Give Back Box

In response to COVID-19, Planet Aid initiated a partnership with Give Back Box to make it easier for people to donate and reuse cardboard boxes piling up from increased home deliveries. In just a few simple steps, donors can ship unwanted household items such as gently used clothing, shoes, electronics, and more. Donations arrive at the Planet Aid Thrift Store in Rockville, Md., where they are sold to our many customers. The profit derived from our Thrift Store supports humanitarian projects, globally.



Fast Fact:

The average U.S. household has around \$7,000 dollars of unwanted items. Donating them makes helping the 50 million people living below poverty a reality. [Click here](#) for more information about Give Back Box.



Our THRIFT STORE

Like other retailers, the Planet Aid Thrift Store in Rockville, Maryland had to close through the early phases of the pandemic. Under the guidance of the manager, Cedric Horton, the staff navigated the many challenges that faced the store throughout 2020. Early on, there were many questions we were all trying to solve - how do we safely collect donations? how do we safely sell donated goods? how do we protect our staff? Our Thrift Store Team handled these obstacles and was able to continue to operate throughout most of 2020.

As the pandemic lurched on, with so many quarantined, there was a swelling of interest in clearing out homes, starting DIY projects, sustainable and affordable shopping, and giving back to our communities. As a result, the Planet Aid Thrift Store saw an influx of donations and shoppers as stores opened back up - a trend that's continued into 2021.





**Our SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

Sustainable DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been “reorienting its work around self-reliance, by ensuring that we foster capacity and commitment in partner countries across all levels—individuals, communities, and governing institutions—so that they can eventually solve development challenges without USAID assistance.” (USAID, Policy Framework Statement, 2021). Under this reoriented approach, USAID emphasizes the need to strengthen in-country capacity in order to sustain development outcomes by working closely with the respective government structures, while strengthening local structures and organizations.

This is in line with what Planet Aid believes in. Ensuring that development assistance is locally led, owned and managed has been Planet Aid’s approach from the beginning. We have done this by supporting our Humana People to People (HPP) co-members in the global south for years. The HPP co-members are locally registered and managed organizations with decades of experience, permanent infrastructures on the ground, and long-term relationships with Government officials. Their work is deeply rooted in the community. Since our formation in 1997, Planet Aid has through our membership of the Humana People to People Federation, been able to support locally designed development models, which are known and recognized for its people-centered approach and long-term outcomes.

As part of expanding locally-led development, Planet Aid established its US-based Partnership Office in 2011. Through a small and dedicated team of Partnership professionals, this Office works closely with each of the local HPP members to build relationships with U.S. government agencies and identify new partnership opportunities with the goal of increasing funding to local organizations.

In addition, Planet Aid directly donates funds from used clothing collection to HPP for disbursement to various projects. In 2019 and part of 2020, for example, Planet Aid donated more than \$3 million supporting 50 projects in 12 countries, in Africa, Asia, and South America.”

“The USG international development funding landscape is rapidly evolving towards a model that prioritizes resources to local partners and local structures, with the goal of ensuring programs are both country-led, sustainable and cost-effective. Planet Aid continues to evolve in this changing environment, working closely with our US Government partners – from USAID, CDC, USDA and other USG agencies, mobilizing support for outcome-based programming. It is critical for us to continue developing our partnership work to ensure that more resources are channeled directly towards activities and the people on the ground.”

Kelly Vaena
USG Partnership Specialist
Planet Aid Partnership Office

Projects supported by Planet Aid around the world have always been – and will continue to be – implemented by in-country partners, working closely with beneficiaries, communities, and government at all levels. Planet Aid has known since its inception that this is the key to the long-term sustainability of our development impact.



Humana People to People: **RESILIENCY IN THE FIELD**

While COVID-19 certainly impacted HPP projects last year, it did not stop them. HPP members and the communities have a strong tradition of continuing in times of crisis. When the world is in flux, whether from natural disasters, epidemics, civil unrest, or financial inequity, the teachers are there, the Farmers' Clubs are there. The people are still there, steadfast in the infrastructure they have established over decades, willing to adapt, and ready to forge ahead. They are not new to resilience, and 2020 was a testament to their mettle.



Humana Brazil and Repescar – a cooperative in Vera Cruz, Brazil, that provides seafood to restaurants in Salvador, across the Bay of All Saints – adapted and innovated to supply fish to consumers via doorstep delivery. This gave local anglers and shellfish collectors an opportunity to continue trade during this difficult period.

———— **Vera Cruz, Brazil**

Farmer's CLUBS

COVID-19 exacerbated food insecurity in many countries. Fortunately, community-level, time-tested programs such as Farmers' Clubs were engaged to ensure families could eat – even under government lockdowns and restrictions – as well as to help establish safe trading markets and introduce e-commerce models. Value chains were further protected through re-organization of small-scale, local agricultural business. Inspiring examples of this perseverance and innovation have bloomed in Brazil and Malawi, where Planet Aid has most recently supported Farmers' Clubs.



Kadam student Priya Jhadotiya provided masks to her community.

—— Rajasthan





Staying **SAFE** **AND CONNECTED**

Under the motto of “Stay Safe, Stay Connected,” Humana People to People India (HPPI) expanded efforts beyond its core programmatic areas to ensure the health, safety, and continued growth of their communities. HPPI launched COVID-19 relief initiatives across 55 districts, providing meal and dry ration kits as well as hot meals to tens of thousands of people. Kadam students, who attend a specialized program aimed at creating an equitable solution for Out-of-School children to catch up and merge into formal education in India, and more than 80,000 families received sanitizer, soap, and masks, many of which were made by vocational students and graduates.

“I was a tailoring student at the HPPI skills training programme in Rajasthan a few years back. With the onset of the lockdown, I was contacted by my project team leader to help stitch masks for the needy and I was happy to contribute for this cause. I was supplied the raw material and after stitching the masks I distributed them among the poor and the needy during the lockdown. During mask distribution, I also helped raise awareness about COVID-19 among the vulnerable groups. I’m happy that my skill could be used for the common good of the people during this time of crisis.”

Priya Jhadotiya

Tailoring student, HPPI Skills Programme, Rajasthan

Our 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position December 2020

ASSETS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Cash and current assets | 7,820,563 |
| Property and equipment and other assets, net | 7,026,865 |

Total assets 14,847,428

LIABILITIES AND NEW ASSETS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Current liabilities | 2,190,652 |
| Notes payable and capital lease obligations | 4,209,271 |
| Total liabilities | 6,399,923 |

Total liabilities and net assets 14,847,428

Statement of Activities December 2020

OPERATING REVENUE

| | |
|--|------------|
| Sales of donated clothing and other goods | 22,431,807 |
| Contracts - Federal | 7,327,080 |
| Interest and other revenue | 499,079 |

Total operating revenue 30,257,966

OPERATING EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Program services | 24,795,796 |
| General and administrative | 3,063,124 |
| Fundraising and development | 1,795,378 |

Total operating expenses 29,654,298

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Non-Operating Revenue | 208,634 |
| Changes in unrestricted net assets | 812,302 |

Statement of Functional Expenses December 2020

PROGRAM SERVICES

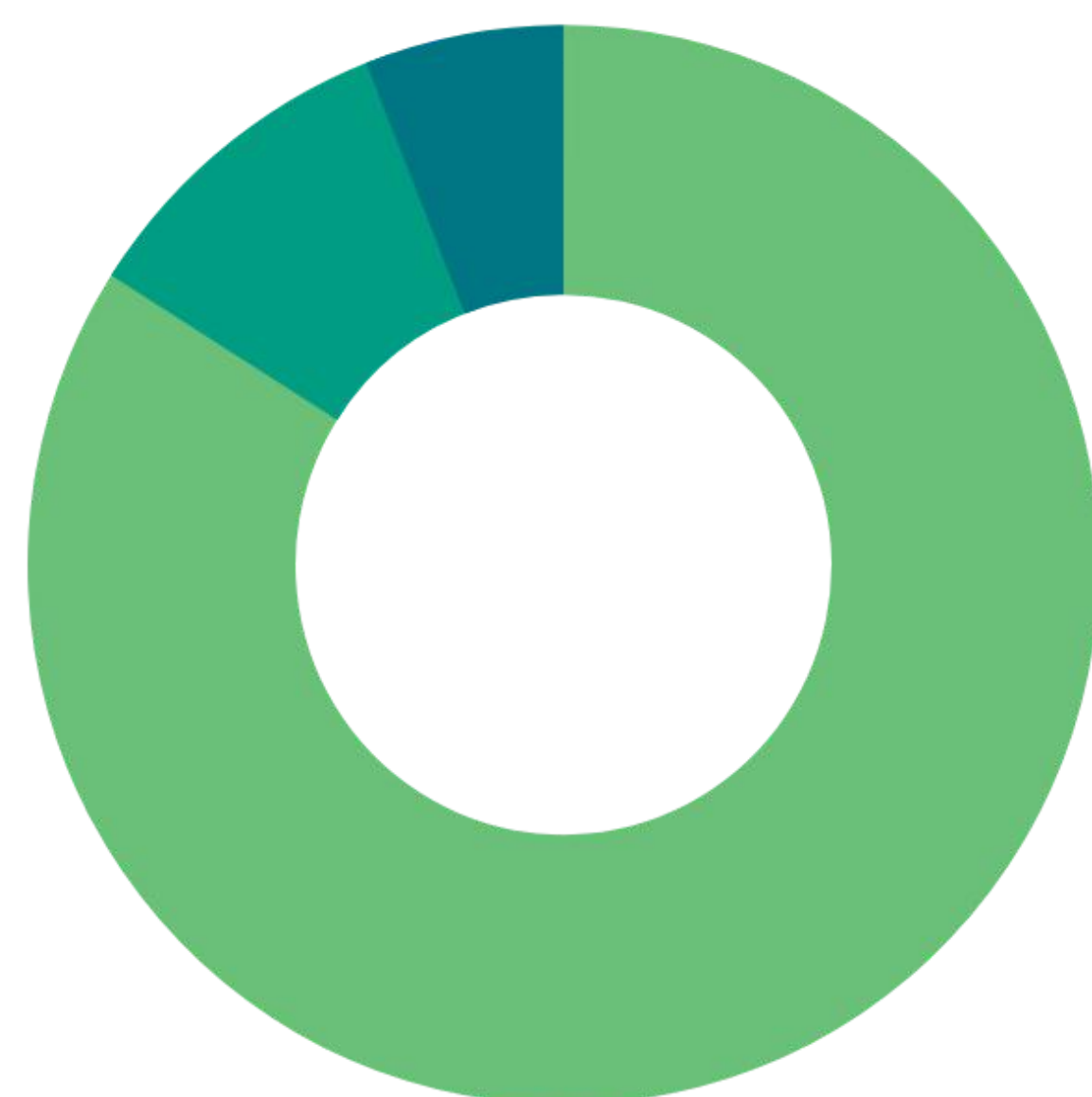
| | |
|--|------------|
| U.S. Clothing Collection and Habitat Protection | 19,772,134 |
| International Training and Capacity Building | 349,326 |
| International Aid | 4,674,336 |

Total program services 24,795,796

GENERAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE 3,063,124

FUNDRAISING AND
DEVELOPMENT 1,795,378

Total expenses 29,654,298



- Program Services 84%
- General and Administrative 10%
- Fundraising and Development 6%

Our BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS



Fred Olsson
President & Chief Executive Officer



Mikael Norling
Chairman of the Board



Eva Nielsen
Treasurer



Eric Newman
Officer



Jytte Martinussen
Officer



Fernando Binhafta
Officer

Our OFFICES

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Milford, MA 01757

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Rochester, NY 14606

Fairfield, NJ

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Unit P
Fairfield, NJ 07004

Huntingdon, PA

11055 Parker Dr.
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Kansas City, MO

208 Bennington Ave
Kansas City, MO 64123

Solon, OH

30901 Carter Street
Solon, OH 44139

Hatboro, PA

2940 Turnpike Dr
Unit 6-8
Hatboro, PA 19040

Planet Aid Thrift Store

5520 Randolph Rd,
Rockville, MD 20852



Planet Aid[®]

For the Environment, For People

