



# ANNUAL REPORT



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**&**

This Collection Box  
Planet Aid is a Tax Ex

**2022**



*A girl in the USDA-funded "Food for Knowledge" program in Mozambique reads aloud to her community*



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# Message from Our President

*Dear Friends,*

Looking back on 25 years of empowering communities to reach their full potential, three valuable lessons emerge.

## **Lesson 1: The profound impact of reusing clothes**

The extensive benefits of reusing clothes can't be overstated. In 2022, we diverted more than 60 million pounds of textiles from U.S. landfills, reducing the need to manufacture new clothes while fueling a second-hand clothing industry that provides livelihoods for millions. Reselling these clothes helped raise nearly \$2.5 million in 2022 for development projects that further education, sustainable agriculture, health and wellness in some of the world's neediest communities.

## **Lesson 2: Development must be locally led to be sustainable**

Planet Aid helps fund local organizations with profound knowledge of their communities and what it takes to foster long-term solutions. Sustainable development is achieved when we work hand in hand with those who understand the intricate dynamics of their local needs and aspirations.



## **Lesson 3: More must be done**

While celebrating our accomplishments, we acknowledge that more must be done to protect the environment and vulnerable communities. Fortunately, there are seemingly endless opportunities and we will continue to expand our partnerships and increase our efficiency to broaden our reach and deepen our impact for people and the planet.

I sincerely thank all our frontline employees and supporters. Your support and dedication fuel sustainable development. We are continuously inspired by the collective impact of those who unite to create a better future for people and the planet.

*Sincerely,  
Fred Olsson  
President and CEO*

# Who We Are



Planet Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, pioneering used clothing collection to protect the environment and fund locally led development programs across the globe.

Founded in Massachusetts in 1997, Planet Aid now employs over 200 people in the U.S. and generates millions of dollars annually for community development programs that promote education, health and wellness, sustainable agriculture and community development.

We helped launch the used clothing collection industry in the U.S. with our iconic, yellow donation bins. In 2022, we collected more than 60 million pounds from roughly 10,000 bins in 17 states and the District of Columbia. In 2022, we continued to lead the industry, launching new, solar powered donation centers to become more efficient.

The benefits of reused clothes are significant. Landfill waste is redirected, helping states, cities and towns save money. Greenhouse gases, pesticides, and water usage associated with clothing manufacturing are reduced. This helps thousands of schools, churches, small businesses, shopping centers and

nonprofits that host clothing donation bins, demonstrate their commitment to helping people and the planet.

Used clothes are sold in the U.S. and abroad, fueling an international second-hand clothing industry that provides a livelihood for millions of people across the globe.

As a member of The Federation Humana People to People, Planet Aid's net proceeds support a network of experienced, local organizations tackling the most pressing humanitarian, social and environmental challenges in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

# 25 Years of Environmental and Community Stewardship



# Clothing Collection and Habitat Protection

Reusing clothing saves precious natural resources, reduces pollution, and keeps waste out of landfills



**700 GALLONS  
OF WATER  
SAVED\***

*\*World Wildlife Federation (WWF)*

URL: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/spring-2014/articles/handle-with-care>

The U.S. only reclaims 14.7% of all discarded clothing (“EPA”). The average American buys 68.5 pieces of clothing and 8.3 pairs of shoes annually (“AAFA”). The average American throws away about 70 pounds of textiles per year (“CTR”), filling landfills with 10.5 million tons (“EPA”). To create a sustainable world, this waste must be a resource in a circular economy.

“Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)”  
URL: <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data#TextilesOverview>

“American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)”  
URL: <https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/Media.aspx>

Over 25 years, Planet Aid has prevented more than 1.7 billion pounds of used clothing and shoes from entering the waste stream. Our signature yellow bins in 17 states and Washington, DC provide a convenient way to keep used clothes out of landfills and give them a second life, reducing the need to manufacture new clothes.

“Council for Textile Recycling (CTR)”  
URL: <https://www.wearonaterecycle.org/>

“Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)”  
URL: <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data>

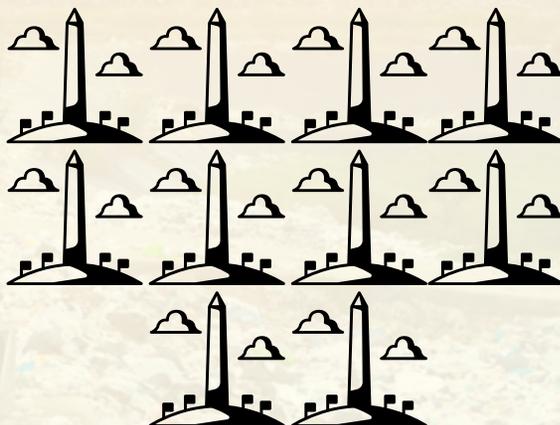


# 60 MILLION

## POUNDS OF CLOTHING AND SHOES COLLECTED IN 2022



Over 25 years, Planet Aid has prevented more than **1.7 billion** pounds of used clothing and shoes from entering the waste stream



**1.7 BILLION**  
POUNDS OF CLOTHING

**10 WASHINGTON**  
MONUMENTS

## Harnessing Partnerships for Locally Led Development

For 25 years, Planet Aid has supported development programs led by local organizations. Planet Aid is a founding member of the Humana People to People (HPP) Federation, an association of 29 organizations working in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. We work together to: protect the planet, strengthen communities, and connect people to unleash their potential to lead positive change.



*Planet Aid presents outcomes from the HIV / AIDS Program "Total Control of the Epidemic" at the International AIDS Conference in Montreal in July of 2022*



*Planet Aid staff with UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima*



*Planet Aid staff at Society for International Development Conference 2023*

Planet Aid's Office of Global Partnerships and Capacity Building works with these 29 local organizations to secure federal U.S. grant funds for international development programs. In 2022, Planet Aid helped secure numerous grants from federal U.S. agencies and assisted local organizations fulfill their grant obligations.

The U.S. foreign aid system can be complex to navigate. We help our partners anticipate trends, understand new and revised contracting regulations, and acquire funds. We then communicate HPP members' unique local perspective to stakeholders in the development community. Planet Aid regularly attends conferences to share industry leading, locally driven approaches that deliver sustainable change in the sectors of health, education, agriculture, and climate change.

# International Aid

Net proceeds from reselling used clothes provide supplemental, unrestricted funding for numerous international development projects. In 2022, Planet Aid provided nearly \$2.45 million to partners for projects promoting education, health, sustainable agriculture, and community development in Africa, Central and South America and Asia.

## Education



Planet Aid provided \$661,206 to six education programs in Africa and India in 2022. Our partnership with USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) expands teacher training infrastructure in the DRC and develops public diplomacy activities for a growing number of students and teachers at the Mbankana Teacher Training College.

## Health



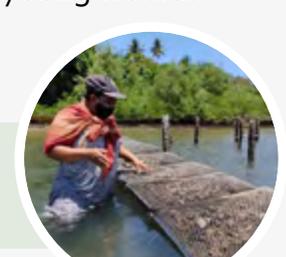
Eight health programs in Africa and Asia received \$734,673 from Planet Aid in 2022 to prevent infection and remediate the negative impacts of HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and COVID-19. Programs like TCE Maputo Viva+ in Mozambique, prevent the spread of HIV, reduce gender-based violence and promote human rights of adolescent girls and young women.

## Community Development



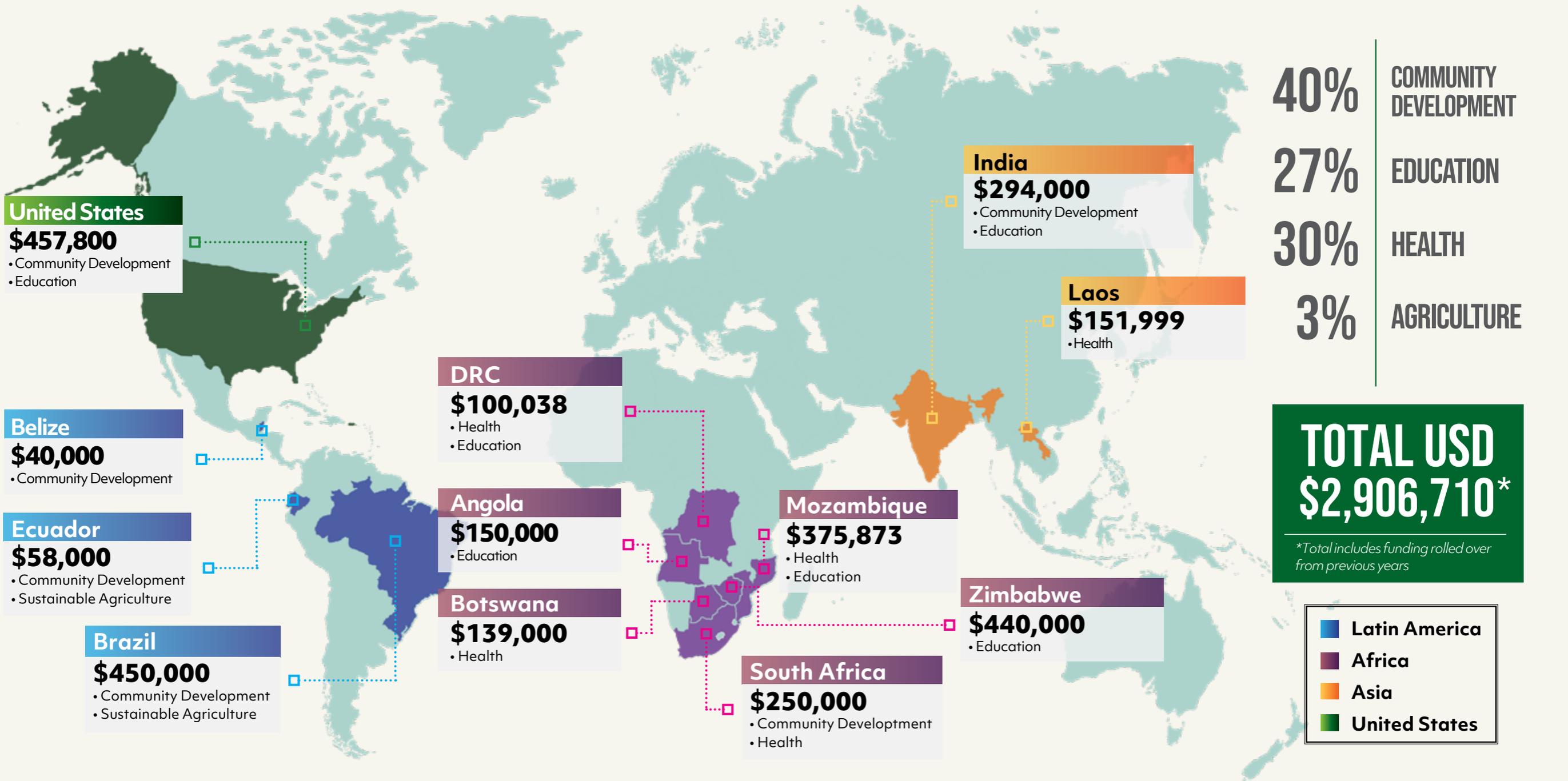
In 2022, Planet Aid provided \$979,564 to 12 community development programs in Central and South America, India and Africa. Humana People to People India's Community Development Projects help transform the social and economic status of families by supporting education, family economy, health, environmental protection and women's empowerment.

## Sustainable Agriculture



Sustainable agriculture programs in Brazil and Ecuador received \$73,467 from Planet Aid in 2022. These programs implement locally led food security and climate resilience solutions to increase crop yields and diversify production, empowering subsistence farmers to rise from poverty.

# Support to Local Partners



# Strengthening U.S. Communities



Planet Aid is committed to investing in the U.S. communities where we operate and provided more than \$450,000 to support community development programs in 2022.

In addition to relieving pressure on local landfills, Planet Aid has supported cancer research, food pantries, homeless shelters, libraries, schools, churches and senior centers through partnerships with organizations like the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Democratic Abuse Project of Delaware, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The Planet Aid Capacity and Environmental (PACE) Grant Program launched in 2022 to expand support for sustainable development in U.S. communities.

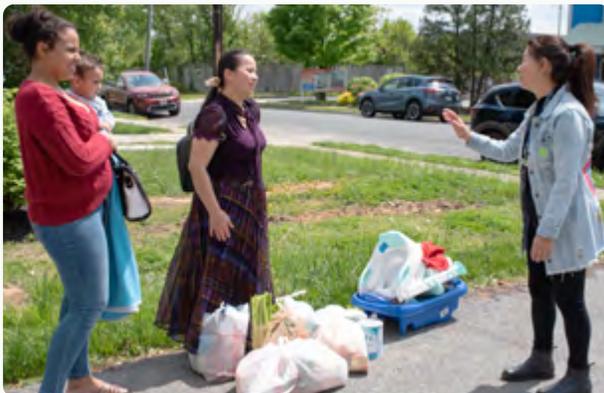
Grants are awarded to support capacity development and environmental stewardship and the first three grants were awarded to well-established organizations in Maryland.

## Vehicles for Change (VFC)



VFC empowers families with financial challenges to achieve economic and personal independence through car ownership. For 20 years, it has trained citizens returning from incarceration to become ASE certified mechanics and help them build careers. Nearly all (99%) of trainees are placed in jobs and 97% are still employed after 3 years.

To expand the program, Planet Aid helped fund a new virtual reality (VR) program to make training accessible anywhere, accelerate the time it takes to get certified, and boost certification rates by reducing the hands-on time in shop. The VR mechanic training is now being deployed across the U.S. in the federal prison system and in Maryland high schools as a pilot for preparing youth for careers in auto repair.



## Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS)

LARS enables homeless and low-income people in Laurel, MD who are in crisis to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency. A challenge has been to source locally produced, fresh food, and store it for distribution.

The Planet Aid grant helped launch a sustainable food program that sources locally grown fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, and supports procurement, storage and distribution. An unexpected partnership developed with fellow PACE Grant recipient CEI to purchase the locally grown produce harvested from the CEI farm.

## Community Ecology Institute (CEI)

CEI cultivates communities where people and nature thrive together, focusing on tangible, community-level change at the intersection of environment, education, equity, and health.

CEI used PACE funds to build a “Fiber Shed Maker Space” to teach the community how to repair and re-use textiles. Funds also supported an expansion of the Nourishing Gardens program, which promotes transitioning residential lawns into vegetable gardens. CEI also works with local public-school students and community leaders to develop projects and careers in sustainable gardening.



# Leveraging Partnerships

**Planet Aid never works alone.**  
Our extensive partnership network includes:

- Local organizations in the Humana People to People Network that implement development programs in Asia, Africa and the Americas. We also partner with U.S. nonprofits promoting community development
- U.S. federal agencies and businesses providing grant aid for development programs
- Thousands of schools, churches, and businesses that host donation bins

These partners further our goals to protect the planet, build communities, and connect people to unleash their potential for positive change.



# Financial Statements

## • REVENUE

CLOTHING &  
GOODS SALES **\$34,924,064**

CONTRACTS &  
GRANTS **\$270,062**

INTEREST &  
OTHER REVENUE **\$561,127**

**TOTAL  
REVENUE \$35,755,253**

## • EXPENSES

PROGRAM  
SERVICES **\$26,081,056**

GENERAL &  
ADMINISTRATIVE **\$6,255,891**

FUNDRAISING &  
DEVELOPMENT **\$2,815,973**

**TOTAL  
EXPENSES \$35,152,920**

**NET INCOME \$602,333**

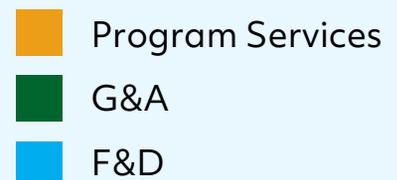
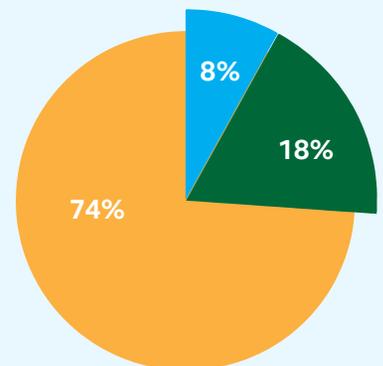
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**TOTAL ASSETS:  
\$22,637,463**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES  
\$4,523,274**

**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES  
\$8,016,325**

**NET ASSETS  
\$10,097,864**



# Board of Directors



**Fred Olsson**  
*President and CEO*



**Mikael Norling**  
*Chairman*



**Eva Nielsen**  
*Treasurer*



**Jytte Martinussen**  
*Director*



**Brian Moran**  
*Director*



**Fernando Binhafta**  
*Director*



**Dinorah Vences**  
*Secretary*



*A young woman in the DRC learns to diversify crops and increase local food production - building climate resiliency*



*For People and the Planet*



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