About Us

Our mission is to save lives and relieve human suffering. We strengthen healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa, providing better access to care and improving the quality of local health systems.

We design and implement innovative solutions to address tough public health challenges. We seek measurable and enduring impact by ensuring our programs are efficient, locally led and tailored to the environment we operate in. Our work spans across the following areas:

- **Maternal & Newborn Health**: We are saving the lives of women and newborns by implementing a digitally enabled emergency transport system.

- **Medical Centers of Excellence**: We are working with our partners in the Lake Zone of Tanzania to establish Centers of Excellence that are transforming healthcare quality for the region’s 17 million people.

- **Healthcare Worker Deployment**: We developed a digital system that enables Governments and Donor Organizations to optimize the deployment of scarce healthcare workers across sub-Saharan Africa.

Mwajuma Zonola received emergency transport with m-mama in Tanzania. She delivered her baby safely via C-section after arriving at Jakaya Hospital.
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( List of board members as of April 2021 )

FR. DR. PETER LE JACQ, MM, VOLUNTEER
KERRY COOPERMAN, SECRETARY

MEET OUR NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

Massimiliano Pezzoli has been with Touch for over 8 years and has effectively led our program efforts for most of that time. Under his program leadership, Touch has built an extraordinary program team and has successfully developed and implemented programs that have improved access to healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa. Massi has continually shown his commitment to Touch and our mission and we look forward to continuing working with him in his new leadership role!

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DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

This past year has been very challenging for all of us. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced constraints in implementing our programs. I am proud to say that our program team rose to the challenge and developed innovative solutions that allowed us to adapt and continue expanding health access in sub-Saharan Africa.

During 2020, we continued implementing and expanding our m-mama emergency transport program with Vodafone Foundation. We got ready to transport women and newborns in Lesotho, we accelerated the transition to local ownership in Tanzania’s Lake Zone, and we continued working with central governments in Tanzania and Ghana to achieve national expansion. Through this program we are saving the lives of pregnant women and newborns.

This year, we also worked with partners in Nigeria and Mozambique to effectively allocate healthcare workers to fight HIV/AIDS with our digital POA system. The Tanzanian Government continued using POA to deploy healthcare workers throughout the country and also specifically used it to deploy over 600 doctors to fight the COVID-19 crisis. We completed construction of a state-of-the art engineering workshop at Bugando Medical Center, Tanzania’s Lake Zone super-specialty hospital, and implemented best practices in the Engineering Department to ensure more equipment is available to treat patients.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proved how important strong health systems are to both protect against global health threats and deliver essential care. It has highlighted the importance of the work we are doing to strengthen health systems in sub-Saharan Africa and expand access to health care.

Without our partners and supporters, we would not have been able to make such progress in such a difficult year. Thank you for helping us in our efforts to build a world in which all people, wherever they are, can receive the quality healthcare they deserve.

With gratitude and conviction,

Celia Felsher  
Touch Foundation President & CEO
2020 Finances in Review

Operating Support and Revenue
- Contributions: $1,962,699
- Government Grants: $845,824
- Donated Goods and Services: $152,737
- Investment Income: $1,564
- Net Assets Released From Restriction: $2,566,295
Total Operating Support and Revenue: $5,529,119

Operating Expenses
- Grant and Program Activities: $3,857,047
- Management and General: $925,146
- Fundraising: $340,673
Total Operating Expenses: $5,122,866

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restriction: $406,253

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year: $8,176,436
- Increase (decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restriction: $406,253
- New Net Assets with Donor Restriction: $109,514
- Net Assets Released From Restriction: ($2,566,295)
Net Assets, End of the Year: $6,125,908

Members of the Touch Foundation community gathered virtually on May 18, 2020 for our Asante event, the year’s biggest fundraiser. We honored our Founder and President for the past 15+ years, Lowell Bryan, for his profound leadership and dedication. Pictured here are Lowell and Celia Felsher, who became President & CEO of Touch in May, 2020. Lowell continues to work closely with Touch as Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Development Committee.
Touch Foundation’s Impact in 2020

- 33,500 pregnant and postpartum women received hypertension screenings
- 4,800 women educated on key maternal health behaviors through m-mama community care groups
- 1,800 women and infants transported to safe care through m-mama
- 600 doctors deployed using POA to fight COVID-19 in Tanzania
- 11-day reduction in average downtime of equipment (reduced from an average of 15 days to just 4) at Bugando Medical Centre
- 30% increase in operating theater equipment usability time at Bugando Medical Centre
- 30% increase in operating theater equipment usability time at Bugando Medical Centre
- 2 countries using POA to allocate healthcare workers fighting HIV/AIDS
- 600 doctors deployed using POA to fight COVID-19 in Tanzania
m-mama sees systems as solutions

Our m-mama program with Vodafone Foundation leverages an innovative emergency transport system and holistic approach to strengthening health systems to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa.

“We are here to help them in our society for a long time.”
- Mary, an m-mama community care group leader.

Mary is one of over 90 m-mama trained community care group facilitators who empowers women in her community with health information to keep themselves and their babies safe. The groups supplement the emergency transport system by encouraging women to seek care early in their pregnancies, warning them of potential danger signs, and spreading awareness about the availability of emergency transport. Since they began, these groups have educated over 6,000 pregnant and postpartum women!

Laying the Groundwork for M-Mama Lesotho’s Long-Term Impact

International development should not foster dependency, but rather empower local communities to create sustainable change. There is a lot that goes into laying the groundwork for a program that endures. Here is some of what our team worked on in Lesotho this year to ensure m-mama’s effectiveness and sustainability.

Building Partnerships: We’re building transformational, sustainable partnerships with the Lesotho Government and program partners on the ground to understand the need and ensure local buy-in and sustainability. This year, we established a joint m-mama Core Team that includes various experts from the Government to monitor program success and further potential improvements.

Ensuring integration: Our goal is to strengthen existing systems, not interrupt them. We conducted a comprehensive health system assessment to ensure m-mama fits into it.

Recruitment and Training: The program’s success is defined by the people who work in it. This year in Lesotho, we began recruiting and training dispatchers who will operate the program and community drivers who will provide transportation when ambulances are not available.
The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that healthcare workers, when equitably distributed, make a big difference in saving lives. Unfortunately, they are in short supply in sub-Saharan Africa.

*Our digital Prioritization and Optimization Analysis (POA) system uses country-specific data to recommend optimal deployment of healthcare workers to facilities with the highest shortages, based on existing healthcare system constraints.*

The Tanzanian Government has been using the digital system in their healthcare worker allocation planning for several years, placing staff across the country based on POA’s data-driven suggestions.

POA was also used this year in Nigeria and Mozambique to optimize allocation for healthcare workers specifically working in HIV/AIDS services. Also, in collaboration with Data.Fi and USAID, POA’s algorithm was used to create a Human Resources for Health Needs and Optimization Planning Solution to help analyze strategies for funding and placement of HIV-focused healthcare workers across target countries.

**HOW DOES POA WORK?**

1. **Step 1:** POA calculates the need for healthcare workers by type and facility
2. **Step 2:** POA ranks the shortage of healthcare workers at specific facilities based on how overworked existing healthcare workers are and the type of healthcare workers required
3. **Step 3:** POA applies real-world constraints, such as scarce healthcare workers or a limited budget to pay them
4. **Step 4:** POA recommends optimal placements at facilities with the biggest healthcare worker shortages
5. **Step 5:** Workforce planners assign new healthcare workers to open positions, distributing them more equitably thanks to POA’s recommendations
6. **Step 6:** Healthcare workers are available to provide more patients with the care that they need
A hospital’s ability to treat patients rests on the usability of its equipment and technology. Hospital engineers and technicians are responsible for fixing and maintaining everything from defibrillators to generators. In doing so, they ensure that patients can receive the care they need in a timely and safe manner. Therefore, a key focus of our work is to establish a technology and engineering center of excellence in the Lake Zone that can be a model for other major hospitals in Tanzania and more broadly throughout Africa.

*Through Healthcare Technology Management (HTM), we partner with members of Bugando Medical Centre’s (BMC) Engineering Department to strengthen its capacity to maintain and repair equipment at the Hospital and throughout the region.*

The HTM program has been transforming the ability of the Engineering Department to serve BMC and Tanzania’s Lake Zone Region. Establishing operational best practices has enabled the Department to monitor performance and promptly address urgent issues. A newly implemented IT-based organization system allows engineers to carry out over 1,000 jobs every year. This year, we completed construction on a state-of-the-art engineering workshop designed to promote efficiency, collaboration, and transparency.

One of many key HTM partners is Damian Masanja, who began working with Touch’s HTM program in 2018 as a consultant, partnering with engineers at BMC to promote biomedical excellence, and who was recently hired by BMC as a full-time Technical Performance Manager. In his new role, Damian mentors members of the Department, coordinates technical trainings, and evaluates adherence to processes and best practices, continuing to raise performance and service quality.

“This Department and Bugando Hospital can become a real center of excellence in Tanzania and East Africa.”

Damian Masanja, BMC Technical Performance Manager
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DONATE
Send a check to make a tax-deductible donation to:
Touch Foundation
P.O. Box 910
New York, NY 10272

YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE AT
www.touchfoundation.org/donate

Call 646-779-0791 or visit our website to learn more about making a gift via stock or wire transfer, or if you would like information on planned giving.

MATCHING GIFTS
If your company has a matching gift program, your contribution to Touch can be generously increased and will do even more to support our mission.

HONOR & MEMORIAL DONATIONS
Give in honor of someone special or celebrate an important event with a commemorative gift

Touch Foundation Tanzania
P.O. Box 2074
Mwanza, Tanzania

Touch Foundation’s EIN is 20-1469976