If I were to take one poignant lesson from 2016, it would be the unfathomable power of financial independence to impact the struggle for women’s equality.

This has been another busy year for our many staff and projects and in particular the great expansion 2016 ushered in for our VICOBA program.

I have been so impressed by the strength and solidarity illustrated by our VICOBA (Village Community Bank) members in particular. Throughout 2016 the whole PWC team has witnessed stories of women finding confidence, independence and safety through their financial empowerment. I hope you enjoy reading just a few of the testimonies in this report and find encouragement in your support for these women whose lives are truly being changed.

2016 has also illustrated the huge impact of economic empowerment on the roles of women within their families and communities. We have seen women gain financial independence and as a result gain influence at home and within their village leadership as equal - or sometimes greater - financial contributors to their husbands.

Throughout the year PWC committed a great deal of time and effort to finding resolution for the long-standing land conflicts in Loliondo. The conflicts between communities, government and investors in this area have spanned more than 20 years. Following extensive work with the Loliondo communities, PWC, along with government leaders and other NGO’s, has helped to
enable peaceful dialogue and agreement of recommendations to the local government for resolution. This is the first time the Loliondo community and NGOs have participated in joint discussions regarding the conflict, and the community sees this as a positive step toward finally achieving peace in the area. All involved in the discussions now eagerly await response from the higher government in 2017.

2016 was a difficult year for pastoralists throughout Tanzania due to an extensive drought caused by climate change. During the year the drought in northern Tanzania reached catastrophic levels, resulting in significant livestock loss which heavily impacted the wealth, health and wellbeing of many PWC supported communities. In response to the crisis, PWC increased our support to our Women’s Solidarity Boma project by helping to secure new land titles to grazing areas for the cattle. This ensures the cattle’s health and economic productivity for the women who depend on them. We also extended our educational sponsorship programs in 2016 to ensure girls from impoverished families were still able to continue their education.

These and our many other activities in 2016 helped us to make significant progress toward our 2018 goals, outlined in our new PWC Strategic Plan which commenced at the start of this year. Developed with the support of our long-term partner Malisili Initiatives, PWC finalized and launched the new Plan which is forward-looking and aims to expand and consolidate PWC’s work to broaden and deepen our impact in the Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro Districts.

It is a testament to the hard work of the PWC team and our partners, the bravery of the many local women now standing up to be counted, and of course your invaluable support that by the end of 2016 we see a step taken toward gender equality for Maasai women in Tanzania.

On behalf of all the individuals, families and communities positively impacted by your support, thank you.
About PWC

The Pastoral Women’s Council operates as a non-profit membership organisation that works throughout northern Tanzania to achieve gender equality and community development through the empowerment of Maasai women and girls.

PWC operates as a membership organisation that empowers women at the community-level to take control of their own development. In 2016 PWC engaged with approximately 3,000 members in 90 villages across northern Tanzania.

PWC’s programs focus on three key areas:

Education

Women’s Economic Empowerment

Rights & Leadership

PWC’s funding is sourced from national and international donors and development funding bodies, as well as PWC members who each pay an annual fee of 3,000 TShillings (US$1.40). Although most of the women paying this membership fee have little means of earning an income at the time of joining PWC, it is an important act of empowerment for women to invest in and take ownership of their own development.

Our Vision

Over PWC’s 20 year history of engagement with these communities enormous positive change has been achieved in the areas of land rights and property ownership, economic and entrepreneurial development, and dramatically increased girls’ education rates.

PWC continues to strive toward a pastoralist community vision that sees:

1) Women control their economic status through improved livelihoods that meet their daily needs;

2) Solidarity amongst women who collectively raise their voices to advocate on issues of concern;

3) Educated girls creating a society where women are independent, equal partners to men.
Education

PWC’s education interventions aim to break the cycle of disempowerment and poverty within Maasai society by providing children, especially girls, with education access and support.

We believe that when girls are educated they are better able to diminish negative and harmful practices towards women within Maasai society, such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage and gender based violence, and seek to retain and promote the positive aspects of their culture. Furthermore, providing girls with secondary and tertiary education breaks negative cycles as educated women later return to aid and develop their communities as qualified professionals.

Keeping Girls in School

Secondary education participation rates in Tanzania by far favour boys over girls. Often, even the girls who successfully enter secondary school fail to graduate due to early marriage and pregnancy.

2016 marked the tenth year of PWC managing Emanyata Secondary School in Ngorongoro District. PWC has been managing Emanyata since community leaders handed it control in 2006 when the school was considered to have been at risk of collapse.

As a community-owned, non-state run school, Emanyata has the freedom to admit more typically disadvantaged students, particularly girls who would not be able to access an education otherwise. Emanyata is a boarding school, thus girls are away from home and better able to resist family pressure to drop out of school to marry.

In 2016, 57% of students were girls, making it unique among secondary schools in the district. In response to the improvements made by PWC, in 2016 Emanyata was once again the top performing secondary school in the district.

Student Scholarships

PWC encourages and enables continued education for girls through secondary school scholarships. In 2016 PWC provided sponsorship for 119 students, of whom 36 were girls who successfully graduated Form 4. 50 additional students were sponsored to tertiary education and vocational training.
Improving Education Quality

PWC is committed to maximising education participation and outcomes by improving the quality of institutional management, teaching, resources and support.

In 2016, PWC supported schools through:

- **151 primary and secondary teachers and public officials** for 15 schools provided with training on ethics, management, leadership, good governance, roles and responsibilities.

- Supported **quality assurance inspections** at district level for 15 schools in NCA and Monduli.

- **1210 Students** in 15 schools in NCA and Monduli engaged through health clubs and student leadership barazas.

- Over 3000 people in Monduli and Ngorongoro reached with **information about the importance of education** and girls’ education.

- 17 teachers sponsored to pursue extended qualifications.

Results in targeted schools include:

- **Mokilal Primary School** became the top performing government primary school within Ngorongoro district in STD 7 national exams in 2016.

- **Arkatani Primary School** significantly improved in its STD 7 national exams performance in 2016. It was **ranked 12 in Monduli District compared to being the bottom school in 2015**.

- All primary project schools supported by PWC within NCA have become among the top ten best performing schools in national results of 2016.

- 9 teachers graduated from additional studies in 2016 and are awaiting placement in local schools.

- **Construction and inauguration of Ormanie Primary School**

  PWC supported the construction of a new primary school in Loliondo which was officially inaugurated in August. The school has the capacity to enroll 1,000 students as a full primary school.
Pre-Form 1 Program Update

The Pre-Form 1 (PF1) Program helps to increase transition from primary to secondary education by providing bridging education for vulnerable girls transitioning from the Kiswahili primary curriculum to the English secondary curriculum. In 2016, 157 students were enrolled in the program, all of whom successfully transitioned to secondary school.

88% of girls who took part in the PF1 Program in 2016 reported that they now feel less pressured to marry while they are under 16 years old.

“I am proud to be in Pre-Form 1 because I am different from other girls in the village. The PF1 class has equipped me with understanding and knowledge. I am able and confident to interact in English and Kiswahili unlike other young girls of my age. I am also different from other girls because I am not shy to speak against traditional harmful norms and practices perpetrated against us like early marriages and pregnancies.”
-Momoi Ndaiya; 2015 PF1 graduate

“Students of the 2016 PF1 class have demonstrated great courage and competence. I am very confident and optimistic that they will achieve their life goals and dreams. I see a bright future for these students.”
- Somoione Jeremiah; PF1 Teacher and Matron

Alumni Network Established

In 2016 PWC established a sponsored student alumni network. The inaugural alumni network meeting was held in December and was attended by 47 past and present PWC sponsored students.

Held at Emanyata Secondary School, guests of honour in attendance included the Loliondo village Secretary, Ngorongoro District Council and Ngorongoro Pastoral Council members, UNESCO officials as well as local leaders.

The meeting aimed to encourage continued education among NCA community members as a sustainable way to empower their communities.

The gathering of all alumni will continue as an annual event.

"...this meeting has reminded me of my role as an educated Maasai to promote education for my people. I will stand for girls’ education and their right to access an education."

- John Kitamwas, NPCA Vice Chairperson.
Economic Empowerment

PWC's economic empowerment programs aim to address gender inequality, poverty and marginalisation of women by enabling them to become self-reliant. Programs focus on empowering women to take control of their own development through solidarity and collective and individual income generating activities.

Through PWC’s economic empowerment support, Maasai women are becoming financially secure and contributing to their families’ wellbeing and access to important social services such as education and healthcare.

Joshua Lasoi, Village Executive Officer Engaresero, Ngorongoro District

“PWC contribute a lot to this community in terms of women’s empowerment, particularly economically through the Income Generating Groups (IGGs). PWC have helped to establish IGGs in the area which are making it possible for women to have access to loans and finance.

“I am already seeing women establishing their own businesses, which is having a positive economic impact in the community. As a result, I know that more children are attending school and people are not struggling financial as they have in the past. The women are even dressing better now! You can see their pride and confidence growing. We need to end the oppression of women in our communities.”

VICOBAS Lead Empowerment

In 2016 PWC’s focus economic empowerment program was the expansion of the VICOBA project. VICOBAs are savings and loans groups which are established as self-sufficient schemes led and sustained by the women members. PWC now supports 73 VICOBAs in Longido District and 70 in Ngorongoro.

In establishing a VICOBA, PWC provides training on financial management and guidance for how micro-savings and loans work as well as resources for VICOBA management including membership guidelines, cash safe boxes and pass-books where saving investments and loans are recorded. The impact of the VICOBAs is rapidly being seen, within 48 groups alone their total saving amounted to 115,165,300 Tshs (US$52,830) at the end of 2016.
Osotwa loo ndomonok VICOBA group, Ketumbeine, Longido

The foreshadowing of a women's economic group in Ketumbeine first began around 10 years ago when an orphan boy in the area, Zacharia, asked for support to afford his school fees. The women came together and organised, each giving 500 tsh which covered the fees. From this initial call for support, discussions continued about how to provide sustainable support for Zacharia to continue his studies into the future.

The original investment group began with 20 women. Following PWC's involvement and support seven years ago, the group has grown from strength to strength and now encompasses more than 100 women.

“PWC became involved with us after seeing our sense of community and commitment within the original group” says Teresea the group Chair.

Over the years PWC's support has enabled the group to grow in size and sophistication. In 2016, with PWCs leadership, the group formed their first ‘VICOBA’ independent savings and loan scheme.

The VICOBA structure sees each women contributing weekly funds to the group pool as investment shares. Records of individual contributions are recorded in log books, which illustrate each woman's investment and loan balances.

Group member Tumaini was the first member of the group to receive a loan from the VICOBA, in December 2016. She borrowed money to purchase two bulls to fatten and resell for profit.

“I chose the business of buying and fattening bulls because the opportunity for profit is high. Many Maasai make money like this, so it seems low-risk” she says.

Before having independent access to a loan, Tumaini has never had the right to own cattle. Her Maasai culture and husband mean that the change to financial independence and property ownership is novel and exciting for Tumaini.

“Just yesterday my husband took one of my goats and sold it without my permission. When he got home I told him off and made him give me the money!

“I have always shared with my husband the knowledge and benefits I get from the group and now he has greater respect and appreciation for me. So when I put my foot down he listens to me!” she says.
Boreholes for Ngorongoro District

PWC supported the drilling of deep water boreholes for four villages. These boreholes will benefit over 10,000 community members and will also significantly lessen the burden on women who previously had to walk long distances to fetch water.

Women’s Solidarity Bomas

PWC’s economic empowerment projects in 2016 included continued support for Women’s Solidarity Bomas (WSB) through donations of additional livestock, training on livestock health and provision of veterinary assistance, and strengthening of livestock grazing land security.

In 2016 PWC supported WSBs with:

- Establishment of 2 new WSBs
- Purchase of more than 300 livestock for 5 WSBs
- Establishment of a community livestock boma in Longido.

“I now have 33 livestock which include 8 cows, 10 sheep and 15 goats. The women in my village selected me to be part of the WSB management because I was so poor and was struggling to support my 8 children. All the livestock I own is through the support of the WSB.

“...and girls from very poor backgrounds and those at risk of not going to school. We now have 2 girls who are in secondary school and are supported directly by this boma.

“We appreciate this initiative from PWC because it is really helping women and girls to achieve their dreams. Men are also now recognizing and realizing the support from women and we have gained a lot of respect from the community due to our control and ownership of the boma”

- Nooretet Olenchoye; member of Malambo WSB
Rights and Leadership

When pastoralist women know and understand their rights they can defend themselves, protect their families and support their entire community.

Many modern legal and human rights remain unrecognised in Maasai patriarchal society, particularly where they concern the individual ownership and protection rights of women. PWC is helping whole communities understand their legal and human rights and supporting women to defend them.

Rights and Leadership outcomes included:

- **27** cases of domestic violence reported to local authorities and successfully resolved with only 7 cases having to be taken to court. Of those 7 court cases, women were granted their rights in 5 and 2 are still pending.

- **29** girls returned to school after rescuing from early marriages

- **160** women in Ngorongoro District secured plots of land from their village governments because of PWCs support to the WRLFs.

Women’s Rights and Leadership Forums

PWC’s primary agent for supporting women’s human rights and achieving gender equality is our Women’s Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs). These forums comprise elected groups of local women who commit themselves to:

- increasing women’s representation in local leadership and government positions;
- reducing and preventing instances of gender-based violence and forced marriage and;
- resolving gender disparity and rights violations relating to ownership of land and property.

In 2016 PWC supported the work of 240 members of WRLFs in ten villages in Ngorongoro District. 10 village councils and 240 WRLF members were trained on property and land rights, case reporting and court procedures. 70 groups, village leaders and traditional leaders in Longido District were also trained on gender rights.
Improved land security

In partnership with Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), two communal Customary Certificates of Right of Occupancy (CCROs) were secured - one specifically for grazing land and the other to support grazing, ranching and tourism activities. These CCROs are important to ensure adequate grazing pasture for the local Women’s Solidarity Boma. This enhanced land tenure will have a direct impact on increasing women’s economic status and household livelihoods.

“I got divorced in 2015 after 25 years of marriage. My six children and I were chased away from our matrimonial home by my husband. Fortunately, I had a small plot that was given to me by the village council. I had to start my life afresh and had to solely provide for my children. My husband wanted to grab my plot but members of WRLF in my village reported the issue to the Ward Land Tribunal. The tribunal solved the issue in my favour and my ownership rights were affirmed.”

- Mary Ezekiel, Samunge village

Establishment of a Girls’ Rescue Centre

A newly established PWC girls’ rescue centre in Loliondo now provides safety and educational support for at-risk girls in the NCA area. Girls aged 13-25 years who are vulnerable or at risk of gender based violence such as forced and early marriages can be admitted to the centre, which provides safe accommodation for up to 30 girls per year.

Support programs within the centre encourage and enable the girls to continue schooling and provide employment preparation to enable their independence. In 2016, PWC rescued 29 Maasai girls who stayed at the centre and were subsequently sponsored to enroll in Form 1 at Emanyata Secondary School.

- Nalepo Kiamasi, Olorobi village
Esupat, WRLF Chairwoman, Engaresero

“I was one of the founding members of the WRLF after PWC came to the village council to discuss bringing together the local women.

“On forming, our first point of concern was to improve women’s rights to land, property and personal protection. At the time, women were not at all involved in decision making in the village or at home. For example, women were not involved in decisions to sell family livestock or how to use the money. No women owned their own land either.

“Over the last few years the forum has solved spousal conflict for 10 families. Most of the issues were instances where wives were unfairly treated and not given their rights. The training we received through the WRLF meant that we were able to resolve the issues, and I am positive that more training will have even more impact in our local community. I already see more women owning land and property and this continues to grow.

“My own life has been changed through my involvement in the WRLF. I now stand in the general assemblies and speak up for my rights. All of us women now are strong and confident to stand up for our rights in front of our husbands and all men. We are no longer afraid.

“The highlight of my time in the WRLF as Chairwoman came during the elections for village council. We secured 10 women representatives out of the total 25 council members. In the past we have had a maximum of four.

“I am one of the newly elected female council members. In my new role I hope that I can advocate for women’s rights and progress for this whole community. I am excited to be able to represent my fellow women as a leader.”
Financial Overview

Overview of financial results for the year ending 31 December 2016

- **Total Income**: 2,352,918,884 TSHS, $1,051,912 USD
- **Total Expenditure**: 2,086,968,035 TSHS, $933,210 USD

- **$50,762 USD** contributed to livestock purchases for community economic development.
- **59% Increase** in donated funds compared to 2015.
- **$89,179 USD** provided for student scholarships.
- In 2016 we more than doubled our funding for community training and advocacy compared to 2015.

**Expenditure Breakdown**

- **Programme Costs**: 69%
- **Personnel**: 23%
- **Core**: 6%
- **Governance**: 1%
- **M&E**: 1%
PWC Supporters and Partners

PWC would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals, families, communities and organisations that support our work which impacts thousands of women and girls across northern Tanzania.

We are so grateful to the courageous women and men who advance our mission and goals by standing up for women and their rights in the communities. To the wives, mothers, daughters, husbands, fathers, sons, community leaders and government officials who contributed to steps toward equality and empowerment for women this year, thank you.

In particular, PWC would like to thank the following supporters and partners whose generosity, advocacy and collaboration allowed us to improve the lives of some of Tanzania’s most vulnerable communities:

2016 Supporters and Partners

African Initiatives
Comic Relief
Dorobo Fund for Tanzania
Evan Cornish Foundation
Flora Family Foundation
German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Global Partners for Development
International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs
Legal and Human Rights Centre
Malasili Initiatives
Minority Rights Group International
Oxfam
Pastoral Council of NCA
Pastoralists Indigenous NGO’s Forum
PRBB Foundation

Segal Family Foundation
Sylvia Adams Trust
Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition
Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association
Trias
Ujamaa Community Resource Team
UNOPS
UN Women Fund for Gender Equality
Waterloo Foundation
Womadix Fund

A special thank you to our government partners, the Districts Councils of Ngorongoro, Longido and Monduli, as well as Regional and Central government.
Solidarity is strength, division is a weakness

Swahili proverb