



Advancing community health worldwide.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CORE Group Annual Report
for FY 2023

www.coregroup.org

Table of contents

Letter from the Executive Director and Board Chair	3
CORE Group Staff	6
Board of Directors	7
Our membership	8
Breaking Barriers: CORE Group's Expanding Global Influence	9
Inside Access: CORE Group's Exclusive USAID Town Hall Series	9
Special UN General Assembly Side Event	9
Strategic Engagement through Innovation and collaboration	10
Summer Learning Series	10
Driving Impact through Collaborative Programs	11
CORE Group Partners Project	12
MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (M-RITE)	13
RAISE 4 Sahel: Advancing Immunization for Zero-Dose Children	14
Small Grants for Scaled Impact	15
USAID Agency for All Project	17
CORE Group Working Groups and Special Interest Groups	19

Annual Report

A Glance into 2024: The Shape of the Future to Come	20
CORE Group Financial Highlights	21
Major Donors and Partners	21
Engage with Us	23
Become a CORE group Member	23
Donate to CORE Group	23
Sponsor Our Global Health Practitioner Conferences	24
Stay Connected with CORE Group	24

Letter from the Executive Director and Board Chair

Dear CORE Group Members and Partners

2023 has been another dynamic and impactful year for CORE Group and our members! It has been a year of growth, increased engagement, and significant contributions to advancing global community health. Our network has expanded, our programs have evolved, and we have hosted many enriching virtual events focused on capacity strengthening, knowledge-sharing, and partnership-building. We are excited to share the highlights of this year's achievements with you in our 2023 Annual Report.

At CORE Group, we have continued to lead discussions on community health systems, building on our expertise and advancing innovative solutions. Our International Community Health Network, which now includes over 20,000 health and development professionals worldwide, has been a powerful catalyst for collaboration. Through this network, we bring together practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to exchange knowledge and co-create impactful solutions that drive progress.



This year, we were honored to partner with Global Health Council and the Global Health Technologies Coalition to host a members-only USAID Town Hall with Dr. Atul Gawande, Assistant Administrator for Global Health at USAID. This exclusive event provided our members with valuable insights into upcoming policies and funding opportunities. Building on the success of this initiative, CORE Group has now established quarterly USAID Town Halls, ensuring our members continue to have direct access to critical policy discussions at the U.S. government level.

In addition, we hosted a special UN General Assembly side event titled “Forging Resilience: Charting the Interplay of Climate Change and Global Health Equity,” which provided a platform to examine the intersection of climate change and global health. The event offered valuable insights into how these two issues impact vulnerable populations

and emphasized the importance of building more resilient health systems. To further engage our members and expand their knowledge, we launched an exciting Summer Learning Series. This series covered emerging and critical topics in global health, with one standout session in July focusing on “Digital Health 2023: The Evolution of Health Education and Healthcare.” This session, featuring insights from our member organizations, explored how digital health innovations are transforming education and healthcare delivery, particularly in low-income countries.

Our advocacy efforts continue to make a significant impact on global health policy, ensuring that the voices of community health workers and underserved populations are heard. CORE Group is

proud to be an active member of the WHO Civil Society Commission, where we collaborate with civil society organizations to strengthen dialogue and contribute recommendations that support WHO's engagement with communities in the pursuit of health for all and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We could not have achieved all of this without the passion and dedication of our incredible staff and the ongoing engagement of our members and partners. Thank you for your hard work and commitment throughout the year.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to continuing our shared mission of advancing community health for all.

Lisa M. Hilmi, Executive Director, CORE Group

Sarah Ford, Chair, Board of Directors

Core Group Staff



Lisa Hilmi
Executive Director



Marie Anderson
Director, Finance
and Administration



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Senior
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Maurice Ocquaye
Sr. SBC Research
Advisor



Arafat Safi
Operations and
Membership
Manager



Sophia Ladha
MACP Project
Manager



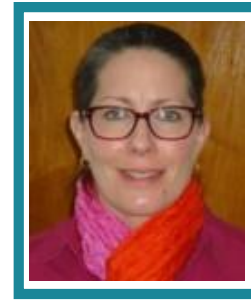
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Rachel Wax
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Modeste Bouffoue
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Board of Directors



Irene Koek
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Ahmed Arale
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Johns Hopkins University



Nikolos Oakley
Member at-large
IntraHealth International



Prathna Desai
Member at-large
Gates Ventures



Sarah Ford
Member at-large
Catholic Relief
Services



Stephan Rahim
Member at-large
DAI

Our Membership

New members in 2023:

S.No	Member	Member Type	Country
1	Sadar Development and Resilience Institute	Organization	Somalia
2	Support For Peace And Education Development Program (SPEDP)	Organization	South Sudan
3	Africa Child Foundation mission of Tanzania	Organization	Tanzania
4	Vitamin Angels	Organization	USA
5	WARDI Relief and Development Initiative	Organization	Somalia
6	Leonel Sonwa Lontsi	Individual	Cameroon
7	ROSALINE KUDO	Individual	Ghana
8	Bashir Abdullahi Adaya	Individual	Nigeria
9	Henry Samson Samson	Individual	Nigeria
10	Cynthia Campos	Individual	USA
11	Ghislain Houndjahoue	Individual	USA
12	HAVYARIMANA Isaie	Individual	USA
13	Schyler Cordova	Individual	USA
14	Naishooki Lairumbe	Student	Tanzania
15	Mario Reid	Student	USA



Breaking Barriers: CORE Group's Expanding Global Influence

A unique leader in global health, CORE Group unites practitioners and public health professionals to exchange knowledge, evidence, and best practices worldwide. Our efforts go beyond mere dialogue—transforming shared insights into tangible, real-world impact. Our growing consortium is a robust network of over 260 organizations and individual members, dedicated to advancing community health for underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries.

Our International Community Health Network engages more than 20,000 health and development professionals worldwide, fostering collaboration to bridge gaps, spark innovation, and co-create the next generation of practical tools and advocacy messaging. Our collective efforts are amplified through an expanded global network, ensuring that the latest insights and innovations reach community health workers, global health practitioners, policymakers, and global partners to advance health outcomes at community, national, and international levels.

CORE Group remains at the forefront of global community health by continuously innovating and expanding opportunities for member engagement. Through our new initiatives, CORE Group continues to break barriers and set new standards for member engagement, further solidifying our leadership on the global community health stage.

Inside Access: CORE Group's Exclusive USAID Town Hall Series

In partnership with the Global Health Council and the Global Health Technologies Coalition, CORE Group hosted a members-only USAID Town Hall featuring Dr. Atul Gawande, Assistant Administrator for Global Health at USAID. This private event offered our members insights into upcoming USAID policies and activities through a unique opportunity to engage directly with a leading voice in global health. Building on the success of this initiative, CORE Group established quarterly Town Halls, ensuring that members have ongoing access to critical policy discussions at the USG level.

Special UN General Assembly Side Event

In the past year, CORE Group hosted a special UN General Assembly side event in New York City titled “Forging Resilience: Charting the Interplay of Climate Change and Global Health Equity.” This event examined the intersection of climate change and global health equity. It provided valuable insights and discussions on how these two critical issues are interconnected and impact our world. This exciting event, which received positive feedback from our community, brought together key stakeholders to address the intersection of global health and climate challenges in real-time.

Strategic Engagement through Innovation and Collaboration



Summer Learning Series

As part of our ongoing commitment to member education and engagement, CORE Group hosted a dynamic Summer Learning Series in 2023, focusing on critical and emerging topics in global health. The series was designed to keep our members at the forefront of global health trends and innovations, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The July installment of the series, “Digital

Health 2023: The Evolution of Health Education and Healthcare” featured insights from leading organizations such as Hesperian Guides, Stanford Digital Medic, and ThinkMD, highlighting the transformative impact of digital technologies on health education and healthcare delivery. The series ended the summer with the Special UN General Assembly Side Event.

Driving Impact through Collaborative Programs

CORE Group’s programs play a pivotal role in supporting our broader membership by driving policy, advocacy, and knowledge management efforts within the global health space. Through strategic initiatives and collaborative partnerships, we empower our members to influence global health policies, advocate for equitable health solutions, and share critical knowledge that enhances the effectiveness of community global health interventions.





Funding is generously provided by USAID in collaboration with WHO; UNICEF; the CDC; Rotary International; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and numerous Ministries of Health.

Throughout the year, CORE Group continued its active involvement with CGPP, organizing three capacity-building webinars for CGPP secretariat staff, with over 80 participants in total. Notably, 23 staff members participated in an interactive Human-Centered Design workshop in August, tailored to real-life scenarios such as vaccinating children in nomadic pastoralist populations and caring for pregnant women. To build on this learning, a follow-up session focused on human-centered design for immunization programs was co-designed with WHO representatives and CGPP to spotlight community voices in improving vaccination uptake, particularly in new CGPP country programs.

CORE Group also provided training in information technology, introducing 31 participants to Microsoft Teams in July and 28 participants to the SharePoint platform in August to enhance the technological capabilities of the secretariat teams, supporting their ongoing efforts in immunization and disease surveillance. Additionally, CORE Group collaborated closely with CGPP India to select a

videographer for a short film on the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in polio eradication in India. Further enhancing their digital presence, CORE Group worked with a website developer to design a new CGPP website, featuring a homepage, four main landing pages, and ten subpages, while integrating existing widgets and country visualizations.

In September, CORE Group supported CGPP's participation in the inaugural International Conference on Primary Health Care, organized by the Institute for International Primary Health Care Ethiopia in conjunction with the Ministry of Health-Ethiopia and Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. CORE Group staffed a booth at the event, sharing information on CGPP's work in ten countries and promoting CGPP's concurrent session on "Partnering for Innovative Integration: Strengthening Immunization and Disease Surveillance in Primary Health Care," both in person and on social media.



MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (M-RITE)



CORE Group is a partner under the JSI prime contract.
Funding is generously provided by USAID.



Over the past two and a half years, CORE Group has played a crucial role in the USAID-funded MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (M-RITE) program, focusing on overcoming barriers to routine immunization (RI) and reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children. CORE Group has provided essential community engagement and immunization technical assistance across five countries: Haiti, Nigeria, Kenya, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In Kenya, CORE Group continued its work on the Photovoice project, emphasizing solutions workshops across three counties: Homa Bay, Vihiga, and Nairobi. CORE Group met with the in-country Momentum lead, who expressed

satisfaction with the results and plans to present them to the Ministry of Health once they receive donor approval. The findings from the Photovoice project were also presented at the Vaccination Acceptance Research Network (VARN) conference in Thailand in June, with plans to expand the project to Mozambique.

In the DRC, CORE Group organized a virtual workshop series with the Ministry of Health, focusing on exchanging approaches and lessons learned from the CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) that could be adapted to the local context. The final session featured the CGPP Global Director, who shared insights on advancing Global Health Security and the One Health approach.

Throughout Project Year 3, CORE Group's efforts have strengthened relationships with partners and increased engagement at the country level, with particularly positive feedback during the M-RITE D.C. retreat. CORE Group's contributions have significantly enhanced COVID-19 vaccination efforts in M-RITE countries, and ongoing support for routine immunization, including polio, remains a priority.



RAISE 4 Sahel: Advancing Immunization for Zero-Dose Children

CORE Group is a partner under the World Vision prime contract. Funding is generously provided by the GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.



Since 2022, CORE Group has played a pivotal role as the knowledge management and communications partner in the Gavi-funded Zero-Dose Immunization Program (ZIP) initiative. This program, with up to \$100 million in funding, aims to identify and reach zero-dose children—those who have not received any routine vaccinations—living in displaced communities and fragile, conflict-affected settings across 11 countries in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel regions.

CORE Group has achieved significant milestones within the RAISE 4 Sahel project in 2023, including the development of a comprehensive learning agenda distributed across various program areas and country secretariats. Two crucial learning reports have been completed: one offering insights gained from partnerships and data collection in the project's inaugural year, and the other examining barriers to gender equality and social inclusion within immunization services.

As a partner under World Vision's prime contract,

In addition to these achievements, CORE Group has crafted a robust Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy, which includes the creation of a knowledge-sharing platform in collaboration with Gavi's IT team. CORE Group actively supports country-based staff in collecting impactful life stories, enhancing the visibility and impact of the project. The program's reach has been further expanded through the release of a second bilingual quarterly newsletter and the development of dedicated social media platforms, which disseminate project updates and engage a broader audience.

To further strengthen collaboration and knowledge sharing across both the RAISE 4 Sahel and REACH projects CORE Group presented at the REACH project workshop in Kenya, sharing insights from the joint learning agenda and communications strategies that could benefit both projects. Additionally, CORE Group worked closely with IRC global advocacy leads to strategize joint initiatives, ensuring alignment and synergy in efforts to advance global immunization goals. CORE Group's role, specifically requested by Gavi, bridges collaboration across both consortia, drawing on our extensive experience with the CORE Group Partners Project (CGPP) to ensure the success of this initiative.



Small Grants for Scaled Impact

Funding is generously provided to CORE Group
by the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

In January, CORE Group hosted a virtual meeting with representatives from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP) to provide a program update, including the results of valuable learning from the program launch. In February, a team from MACP, along with CORE Group's Civil Society Organization (CSO) Capacity Strengthening Technical Advisor, visited Bangladesh to meet with Bangladesh Rural Economic Development (BRED), the selected grantee for the small grants project in the region. Following this visit, the CORE Group SGSI team conducted Organizational Capacity

Assessments (OCAs) for the three grantees from the first round of funding: BRED in Bangladesh, and CDS-Park and Visible Impact in Nepal. Each organization developed action plans based on their identified capacity needs, which were validated by their senior management teams and shared with CORE Group management and MACP.



The second round of the Small Grants for Scaled Impact project attracted significant interest, with CORE Group receiving 76 concept notes. After an initial screening, all 76 notes advanced to the second round of review by a three-member technical committee.

From this pool, 17 organizations were selected to submit fully costed proposals, including seven organizations from Bangladesh, seven from Nepal, and three from Cambodia. The finalists for Nepal and Bangladesh were selected, with sub-grant agreements for Nepal Fertility Care Center (NFCC) in Nepal and Nari Maitree in Bangladesh finalized in June. The organizational capacity assessments for these new grantees highlighted the need for a knowledge management (KM) strategy, which the CORE Group team conducted to identify specific gaps and priorities for each organization.

CORE Group's approach to administering the Small Grants for Scaled Impact Project is deeply rooted in engagement, collaboration, and support at every step of the process. Grantees have consistently expressed appreciation for the level of ongoing

engagement and support they receive, noting that they have never experienced such a hands-on approach from a donor before. CORE Group encourages grantees to view each other as partners rather than competitors, fostering a collaborative environment where they can share experiences and work together for the betterment of their communities.

CORE Group is also committed to providing resources that address the capacity-strengthening needs identified in the organizational assessments, ensuring that grantees have the support they need to implement their projects effectively and achieve long-term sustainability. This commitment extends to selecting grantees who are implementing innovative projects, such as those working with married adolescents in Nepal, to ensure that the funded initiatives are not only impactful but also pioneering.


The comprehensive approach taken by CORE Group, highlighted in the October interim report to MACP, underscores a genuine commitment to

the success and sustainability of its grantees, ensuring that they are equipped not only to meet the immediate goals of their projects but to thrive in the long term.



USAID Agency for All Project

CORE Group is a partner under the Global Equity Hub/University of California San Diego prime contract. Funding is generously provided by USAID.



CORE Group, in collaboration with the Global Equity Hub/University of California San Diego, successfully launched the Organizational Network Study, targeting 26 respondents with a high response rate. This study aims to examine power dynamics within partnerships, exploring how organizational characteristics contribute to embedded inequities and influence decision-making processes.

CORE Group continued to support the Nigeria Buy-In by completing the Stakeholders Dissemination Protocol and engaging local stakeholders to secure their support for the dissemination of findings. In Ethiopia, the first Stakeholder Workshop was conducted in March 2023, in collaboration with the Institute for Primary Health Care-Ethiopia (IPHC-E). CORE Group facilitated the hiring of local research assistants and coordinated logistics,

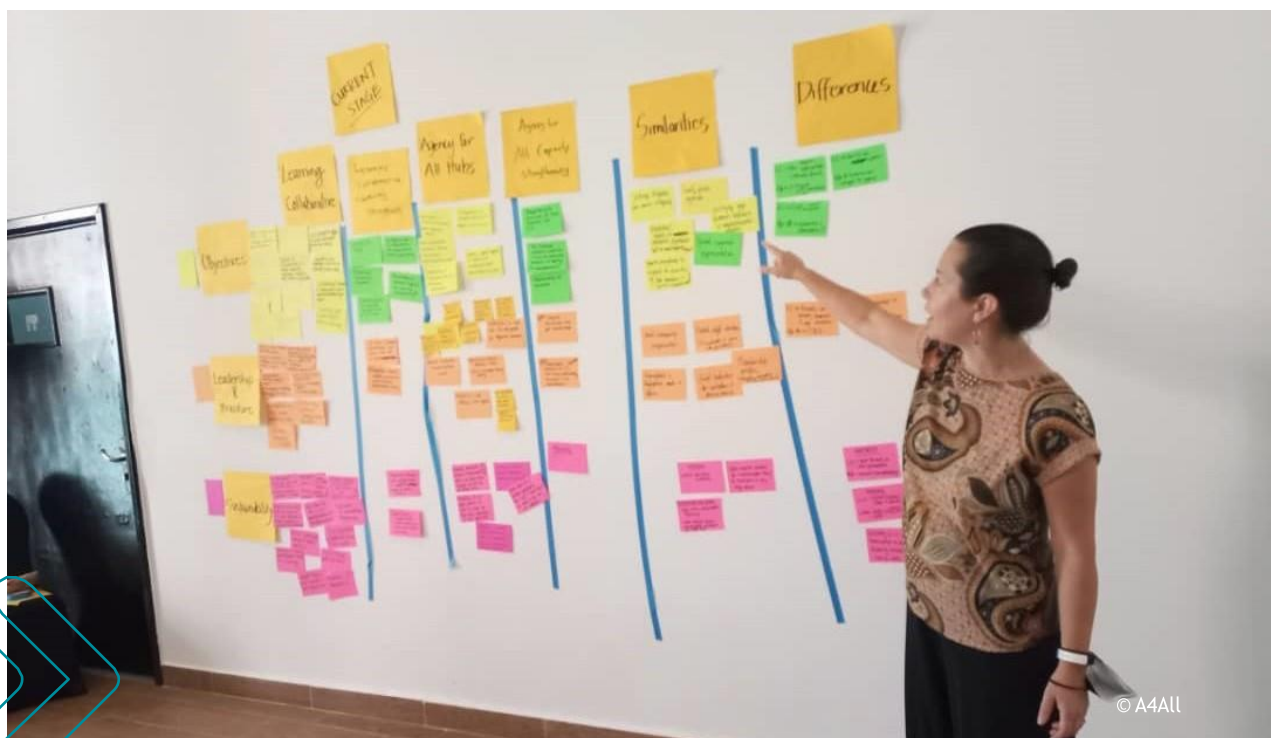
including venue booking, participant invitations, and workshop facilitation. These efforts aim to ensure robust stakeholder engagement and the successful implementation of project activities in both regions.

In alignment with our efforts to build membership and networking for the Social Norms and Agency Learning Collaborative, CORE Group developed a comprehensive membership recruitment and engagement strategy. This strategy focuses on mapping, recruiting, and retaining researchers, NGOs, and civil society organizations to enhance research uptake and utilization at the local level.

Our three Regional Hub Coordinators have been actively mapping out and onboarding regional stakeholders in their respective regions, generating significant interest in the Agency for All project activities. Notably, the South Asia Agency Coordinator, in partnership with the host organization in India, hosted a virtual

critical conversation exploring the linkages between social norms and agency to promote children’s rights and justice. These efforts have strengthened CORE Group’s regional presence and fostered deeper engagement in the global health community.

CORE Group also developed and implemented a comprehensive 5-year Knowledge Management Strategy for the Agency for All (A4All) project, designed to optimize the sharing and utilization of knowledge across our consortium. A4All social media platforms are actively managed by CORE Group, resulting in a steadily growing following and increased engagement across the global health community. This strategy not only strengthens communication and collaboration among partners but also promotes expanded distribution and accessibility of information and knowledge worldwide.



CORE Group Working Groups and Special Interest Groups



CORE Group working groups and special interest groups are invaluable in leveraging the diverse expertise of our members, leading to innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to global health challenges.

Working groups, which are integral to CORE Group’s membership engagement strategy, include:

- Systems for Health Working Group
- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Working Group
- Social & Behavior Change Working Group
- Nutrition Working Group
- Humanitarian- Development Task Force
- CORE Group Community Listserv

Being part of a working group at CORE Group offers significant opportunities to expand

professional networks and gain access to cutting-edge information, allowing members to influence global health policy on the global stage. (Note: This statement can be a sidebar, and it is assumed that there will be a page listing the members of each working group consistent with past annual reports.)

Over the past year, CORE Group members have significantly advanced our mission through key collaborative initiatives. Board members Caroline Quijada and Stephen Rahaim led important webinars, including a private sector roundtable with ThinkMD and a Localization webinar with Abt Associates, Amref Institute, and other partners, focusing on innovative approaches to community health and promoting localization.

A Glance into 2024: The Shape of the Future to Come



March 2024 Global Health Summit: Expanding Learning Opportunities

CORE Group will host a Global Health Summit in Washington, DC in 2024. This event will include planning inputs from our working group co-chairs and feature workshops and plenary sessions designed to provide technical learning opportunities for members. Scheduled for late March, the Summit will be hosted at our new headquarters for a minimal fee to promote accessibility for all.

October 2024 Global Health Practitioners Conference and Pitch Challenge

CORE Group's Global Health Practitioner's

Conference (#GHPC24), will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2024. This annual gathering is designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and action to address the most pressing global health challenges. #GHPC24 will bring together a diverse array of stakeholders, including global health practitioners, community health advocates, academics, the private sector, governments, and donors, creating a vibrant space for the exchange of ideas and experiences over three days. A key highlight of #GHPC24 will be the CORE Group Pitch Challenge, a platform for presenting innovative and scalable ideas aimed at advancing global health.

CORE Group Financial Highlights



Major Donors and Partners



Contributors:

- Irene Koek, Save the Children
- Sarah Ford, CRS
- Lindsay Horikoshi, Camber Collective LCC
- Beth Outterson, Corus International
- Caroline Quijada, Abt Associates
- Camber Collective LLC

CORE, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
September 30, 2023 and 2022

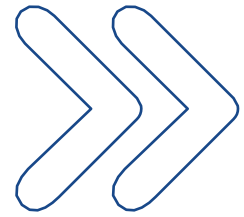
ASSETS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,045,663	\$ 969,361
Investments	1,166,760	1,001,748
Accounts and grants receivable, net	865,683	261,266
Prepaid expenses	30,864	16,328
Right-of-use asset, net	22,467	-
Total current assets	3,131,437	2,248,703
Deposits and other assets	32,417	24,336
Total assets	\$ 3,163,854	\$ 2,273,039

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 280,951	\$ 133,577
Accrued expenses	29,120	21,755
Refundable advances	102,713	206,109
Operating lease liability, current portion	25,235	-
Deferred rent, current portion	-	13,221
Total current liabilities	438,019	374,662
Deferred rent, net of current portion	-	2,768
Total liabilities	438,019	377,430
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	1,365,342	855,232
With donor restrictions	1,360,493	1,040,377
Total net assets	2,725,835	1,895,609
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,163,854	\$ 2,273,039

Engage with Us



There are many ways to get involved!

Become a CORE Group Member

CORE Group's membership comprises organizations and individual associates dedicated to advancing community health for underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries. Through our International Community Health Network, over 20,000 health and development professionals collaborate to share ideas, identify gaps, and co-create promising innovations.

As a CORE Group member, you will directly contribute to the direction of global community health as you also expand your professional network and strengthen your technical skills. Members also gain exclusive access to CORE Group's extensive resources.

Apply here: <https://coregroup.org/membership/>

Donate to CORE Group

Make a meaningful impact on global health by contributing to the vital work of CORE Group. Your donation enables us to carry out critical activities that advance community health worldwide, particularly for underserved populations. With your support, we can create and disseminate field-relevant tools and resources, strengthen the local capacities of NGOs, governments, health workers, and communities, and host collaborative activities that foster coordination among global community health stakeholders. Donate here: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QUA3R7UJXFAHQ

Sponsor Our Global Health Practitioner



Conferences

Join forces with innovative organizations dedicated to promoting healthy communities worldwide and making a lasting impact on global health programs. Your sponsorship not only supports the dissemination of essential resources but also enhances your visibility among global health leaders around the world. See more at conference.coregroup.org

Stay Connected

Join the conversation on global health by following and engaging with CORE Group on social media. Connect with us through the channels below to stay informed and participate in discussions that shape the future of global health:

-  @CoreGroupDC
-  @COREGroupDC
-  @COREGroup

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