



## Who is Global Communities?

Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable.

Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself.

We make a difference by engaging with communities, governments, the private sector and NGOs as partners for good – bringing together complementary strengths and shared responsibilities to work toward common goals.

Global Communities has existed for 60 years. Most recently we have been known as CHF International and, before that, the Cooperative Housing Foundation. We began in 1952 as the Foundation for Cooperative Housing.

## What distinguishes your work?

Global Communities has international reach and scale, having worked in more than 80 countries since our inception. We have considerable technical expertise, with decades of experience at the cutting-edge of development. But the real power of what we do lies in our ability to develop the relationships that put the people of the community at the forefront of their own development.

Enriched by the ability to build trust and understanding, it is this focus on the community and partnership which is at the core of our work.

## Why Partners for Good?

Our tagline is the “single organizing idea” that we use as an organization. We partner with communities, the private sector, governments, other NGOs, faith-based organizations and community organizations to make positive changes in the lives of people who need it most.

Our work strives to create positive change. “Partners for Good” also represents our long-term commitment, in English playing on the double meaning of “for good”.

## Why did you change your name?

The name “CHF International” did not communicate well our work or our approach. The first question we were always asked was “what does CHF stand for?” and we would answer “Cooperative Housing Foundation”. Then we would have to explain that we don’t just do housing, we are not a cooperative, and we are not a foundation.

CHF’s name failed to communicate what we do and who we are; it was often counterproductive, giving the wrong impression and evoking confusion. So we changed our name to one that communicates who we are and what we do. We are an organization that works at the community level across the globe; the name Global Communities emphasizes that.



## What has stayed the same?

We have put communities in charge of their own development for six decades. We still do, that is our heritage. We have not, and will not change that, even as we pioneer new types of programs, develop innovative partnerships and work in new environments around the world.

## What are our Areas of Expertise?

- Humanitarian Assistance
- Micro, SME & Housing Finance
- Global Health
- Governance & Urban Development
- Investing in Women & Youth
- Economic Development
- Capacity Development & Civil Society
- Infrastructure & Construction

## What are some key facts about Global Communities?

- Global Communities runs the largest network of microfinance institutions in the Middle East, in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza.
- Global Communities has won awards for projects in climate change adaptation, working with communities affected by HIV and AIDS, transparency in our micro-finance institutions, and our leadership and innovation.
- We are funded by a large variety of donors including USAID, OPIC, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund, The World Bank, UNDP, UNOCHA, Caterpillar, Goldman Sachs and many more.
- We have around 2,000 staff worldwide. Of these, 95% are from the countries, even the communities, where they work.
- We currently operate in more than 20 countries and have worked in over 80 since we began in 1952.



**91.7%**  
of donor funds are  
spent on programs

*Global Communities is a politically neutral, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*

**Global Communities**  
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 800  
Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA  
Phone: (+1) 301.587.4700  
Fax: (+1) 587.7315  
[www.globalcommunities.org](http://www.globalcommunities.org)

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