

Annual Report 2022



SHARED ACTION AFRICA
Together We Achieve

Letter from Evelyn

Shared Action Africa ended 2022 very strongly. Throughout the year, we sought new and innovative ways of maximizing the impact of our work at the intersection of economic empowerment, sexual and reproductive care, and rights with climate justice for our women and girls in the refugee settlements. We achieved this by investing more resources into our operations, welcomed new talented staff members to our team, and began on a journey of digitizing some of the operations.

We formed promising new partnerships with the local government, civil society organizations, and the communities that we serve that have resulted in strong collaboratives that supported the expansion of the community impact in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements in southwestern Uganda.

Our continued growth is a testament to the commitment of our financial and implementing partners, volunteers and our staff. We'd like to thank our Board of Directors, which has never lost sight of what we are about of building sustainable livelihoods, healthy lives, as well as supporting girls and women to become agents of climate justice in the rural areas and refugee settlements in Uganda.



Looking ahead, building on the success of the past three years, our focus in FY2023 will be building the scale with sustainability and reaching more girls and women with sustainable livelihoods, health and building their resilience to climate change.

Please enjoy our 2022 Annual Report.

Evelyn Nassuna

Chief Executive Officer

The Need

“With further displacement everywhere in 2022, total forced displacement now exceeds 100 million people worldwide. This means 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee – a dramatic milestone that few would have expected a decade ago.

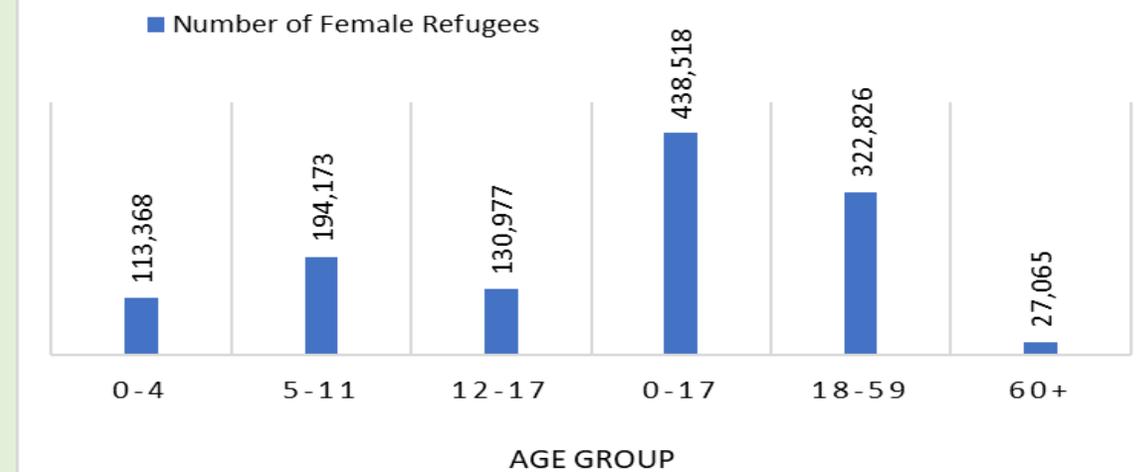
Therefore, as new refugee situations emerge and intensify, and as existing ones reignite or remain unresolved, there is an acute need for durable solutions at increasing scale.”

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UN Refugee Agency

With on-going conflicts in Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, Uganda continues to receive new arrivals of refugees through its southwestern and northern borders. However, the challenges experienced by migrant and refugee women increase by the day due to the magnitude of displacement, the growing vulnerabilities, compounded by diminishing resources and strained social services in refugee-hosting districts. The covid-19 pandemic has increased their vulnerability to shocks including major disease outbreaks, food shortages, climate change, adolescent pregnancies, menstrual poverty, sexual and gender-based violence (SCBV) and an increased dependence on natural resources as a source of livelihoods and cooking energy.

FEMALE REFUGEE POPULATION IN UGANDA (2021)



Total = 788,409

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends>

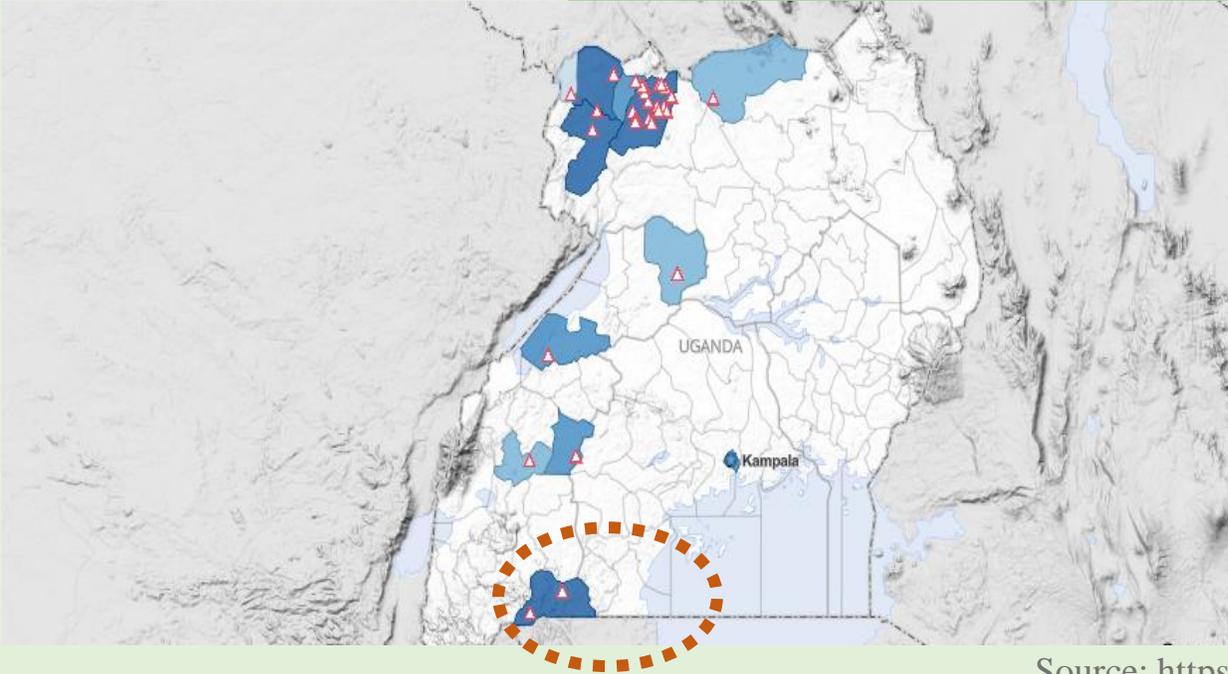
Our Vision

We envision a world where women and girls in rural and refugee communities have the opportunity for a high quality of life while serving as a steward to create a more sustainable planet.

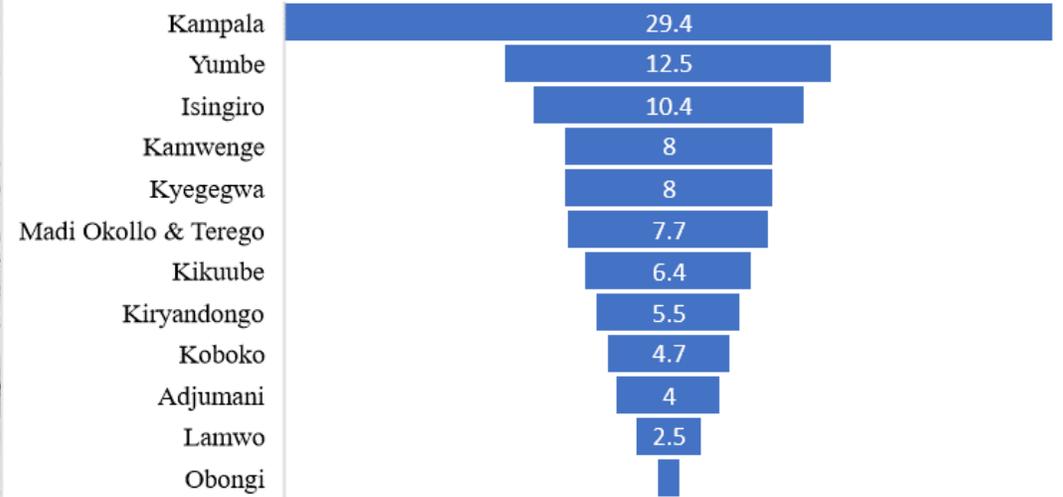
Mission Statement

We support women and girls to attain sustainable livelihoods, lead healthy lives, and are agents of climate justice in rural and refugee areas in Uganda.

Where We Serve



Refugee Host Percentage Population By District (2021/2022)



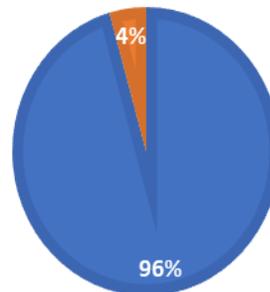
Source: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>

Today, Shared Action Africa serves Girls and Women in **Nakivale** and **Oruchinga** refugee settlements in **Isingiro District** in southwestern Uganda.

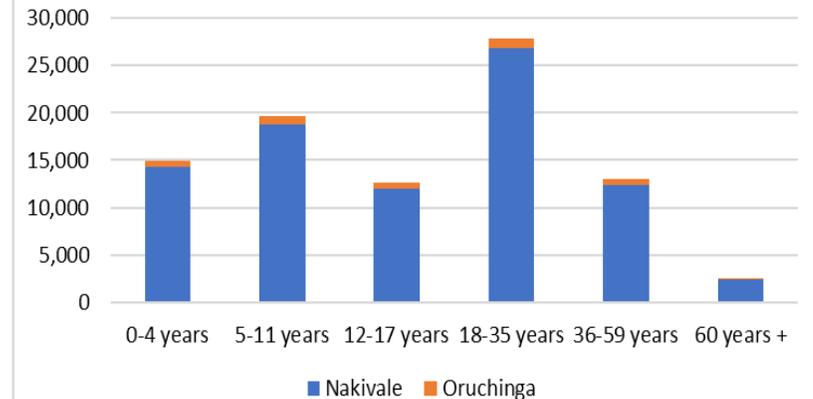
Location	Count	Percentage
Nakivale	171,387	96%
Oruchinga	7,939	4%

REFUGEE COUNT IN NAKIVALE & ORUCHINGA SETTLEMENTS

■ Nakivale ■ Oruchinga



Age Distribution and Count of Female Refugees in Nakivale and Oruchinga



How We Serve

Transforming lives through Savings Groups

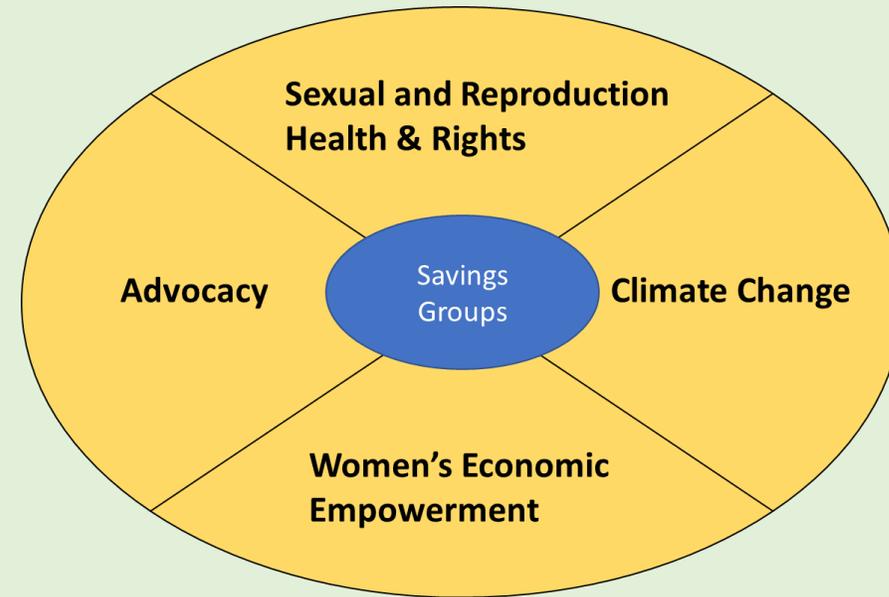
“Savings and Lending are a very powerful tool for transforming the lives of the marginalized women in the rural and refugee settlements as they offer a single platform for accessing many services, while empowering the women to take action through movement building to address the systemic injustices that perpetuate poverty among their communities”

Priscilla Nambajjwe

Director of Operations and Finance



Members of Tuzamurane Savings Group holding their financial booklets during their weekly meeting to save, borrow and collect loan repayments.



Working through Savings Groups allows us to address the interconnected and complex problems faced by the girls and women we serve. During 2022, we strengthened 20 savings and lending groups with an average of 30 members per group in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements. It is through these platforms that members met, aggregated their savings from which members borrowed, and made loan repayments on a weekly basis. The funds borrowed by members were mainly invested in income generating activities, purchasing of food, and meeting other household expenses. Also, during the weekly meetings, the members were provided with financial literacy education and business development skills that they used to track group and individual financial records.

Our Impact

Increased Access to Financial Services

- 594 Women belonging to 20 Savings Groups
- UGX 67,478,000 saved by 594 Women belonging to 20 Savings Groups

Building Resilient Women Headed Households

- 480 Women established kitchen gardens
- 196 Women established communal gardens
- 81% Women reported reduction in food expenditure.

Increased Access to Family Planning and Cervical Cancer Information and Services

- 8908 Women received Family Planning Information and Services
- 258 Women received Cervical Cancer Screening Services
- 10% Increase in Family Planning Services uptake
- 40 Health Workers and Village Health Teams were trained and mentored

Increased Access to Youth Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

- Successfully Advocated for the establishment of a Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Youth Friendly Center at Nshungyenzi Health Center III
- 499 Youth accessed and utilized Youth Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Care services
- 24.1% increase in HIV/STI Testing by Youth and Adolescents

Financial Inclusion through Savings Groups

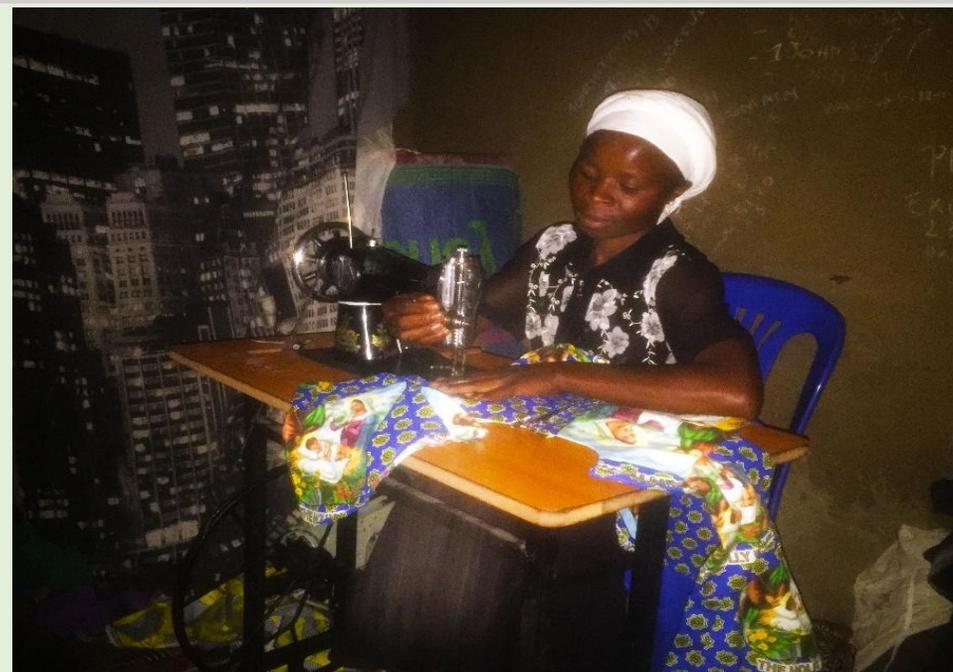
During 2022, the members of Tuzamurane Savings Group jointly created a capital base of UGX 2,938,000. Members accessed loans to meet various financial needs including the establishment of small enterprises within their communities and purchasing of food to feed their families amidst the declining food assistance from the humanitarian organizations.



Members of Tuzamurane Savings Group and their cash savings during their weekly meeting

Kavira Bayilanda, a 26 year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo wanted to start an income generating business. However, like most refugees she could not find the start-up capital needed to do so. This is because Kavira and her husband were finding it harder to survive on the food assistance provided by UNCHR to support their family of two adults and two children.

“The Umoja Savings and Lending group enabled me to purchase a sewing machine and start a clothing tailoring business to support members of my community.” - Kavira Bayilanda,



A photograph featuring Kavira on her sewing machine

Building Resilience and Livelihoods through Savings Groups

To further improve food security, Shared Action Africa mobilized 20 Savings and Lending groups, that came together and formed the Refugee Women's Movement in Nakivale with the objective of lobbying for land to be allocated to refugee women to enable them grow food to feed their families. The Office of the Prime Minister, represented by the Commandant allocated 6.5 acres of land to the Refugee Women's Movement. Shared Action Africa supplied seedlings such as cabbage, amaranthus, green onions and collard greens (*sukuma wiki*). The seedlings from the group nursery were distributed among members and transplanted on both the communal and individual kitchen gardens.

On the communal gardens, demonstration plots are also established on which climate smart agricultural practices such as proper spacing of crops, composting, mulching are showcased during training sessions and ongoing technical assistance provided. To build resilience to climate change manifested in prolonged droughts during the dry season, and flooding during the rainy season, Shared Action Africa promoted kitchen gardening, a strategy to weather variability. Kitchen gardens are maintained with very little water and are therefore easy to manage during the dry season. As a result, 480 refugee women that were supported by Shared Action Africa accessed a continuous supply of nutritious vegetables over a six-month period during 2022.



A member of a Savings Group receiving seed on behalf of other members



Members tending to their group nursery



One of the refugee women working in her kitchen garden

Increasing Women's Access to Family Planning and Cervical Cancer Screening Services through Savings Groups



Members of Tuzamurane Savings Group receiving counselling on Family Planning from the Sexual & Reproductive Health Officer during their weekly meeting



The weekly meetings for the respective savings groups are used as a forum by Shared Action Africa to provide community-based family planning and cervical cancer screening services to the women affiliates, as well as to their husbands when invited. This aimed at addressing some barriers that impede the women in the refugee settlements from accessing family planning services, such as long distances travelled to go the nearest health clinics to access contraceptives that can easily be provided within the community.

"I feel honored and lucky to have been offered the opportunity to help my fellow women to make the right choices when it comes to choosing the most suitable family planning method depending on their individual circumstances. Personally, I choose to promote the Intrauterine Device (IUD), because it is one of the best methods that I have used with almost no side effect that I can report about" - Angelica Musimenta

Community Commitment for Lasting Impact



Meet Dativa

“Because of the family planning support services that I received through Shared Action Africa, I was inspired to join the Village Health Team, which I have been a part of since 2021. Prior to that, I was a housewife with no job. By serving as a community health worker, I have gained a lot of respect from the women in the community. It has also helped me earn an income, which has empowered me economically. My savings from income earned in 2021 through the monthly incentive helped me to start up a small retail business. In 2022, I collected over UGX 840,000 through the monthly stipends provided by Shared Action Africa. With the money I earn, I have been able to provide educational support for my 3 children. I have gained a lot of respect from my husband, because I am a contributor to our finances.”

With continuous re-investing, my retail business has become profitable. My plan is to expand my business from retail into wholesale, which I believe that my savings from 2023 will play a crucial role. I am grateful to Shared Action Africa for giving me this opportunity to serve on the Village Health Team because it has changed my life in many positive ways and in turn enabled me to give back to other women.” - Dativa Nyamwiza



Dativa Nyamwezi (featured on the left) receiving a Certificate of Appreciation

Creating Impactful Partnerships

Our partnership with the health facilities managed by Medical Teams International in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements allowed us to provide 8908 girls and women with family planning services, and 258 with cervical cancer screening services. We are so grateful for the support provided to us by the health workers at the following health facilities, Nakivale HCIV, Rwekubo HCIV, Nshungezi HCIII, Juru HCII, and to all our partners.

“With approximately 79,612 refugees and asylum seekers in Nakivale, we at Nakivale HCIII are very grateful for the collaboration with Shared Action Africa that enables us to expand services and reach more people with specific family planning IEC and behavioral change communication.” - George Lubanga, the In-charge of Nakivale HCIII

Shared Action Africa launched the Arise for Reproductive Justice for refugee girls, which advocated for the establishment of youth friendly spaces where sexual and reproductive health services would be provided to adolescent girls and young women. To achieve this outcome, Shared Action Africa collaborated with the adolescents and young people through their newly created Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Collective. The latter formed by 174 young people of ages 15-24 organized in 7 youth groups, came together and signed a petition requesting the service providers including Medical Teams International, Isingiro District and the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda to create youth friendly spaces at 3 out of the 9 health facilities in the target refugee settlements.



A photograph featuring George Lubanga at his station at Nakivale HCIII



Shared Action Africa's Advocacy Officer in a Training Session with the Members of Youth SRHR Collective

Gratitude to Our Donors

We can't thank our donors enough. We are incredibly grateful to have Terry and Carolyn Gannon as part of this journey. You are what makes it possible for us to do the good work we do among the communities we serve.

“Evelyn Nassuna introduced me to Shared Action Africa six years ago when we both attended an annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium in the United States. Her vision and passion for giving a little financial boost to capable women so that they could become entrepreneurs was compelling. I have been proud to provide support to three Shared Action Africa projects since that time—each project quite different, and each one adding value to the women carrying out the project, to their families, villages, and entire communities.

Shared Action Africa's focus on enabling women who have the desire and drive to develop skills and productive outcomes has a multiplying effect: women gain financial capability and respect; they become entrepreneurial role models for their children and spouse; they become community leaders; they develop supportive teams; they show other women how to accomplish similar projects. Really inspiring!” – Carolyn Gannon

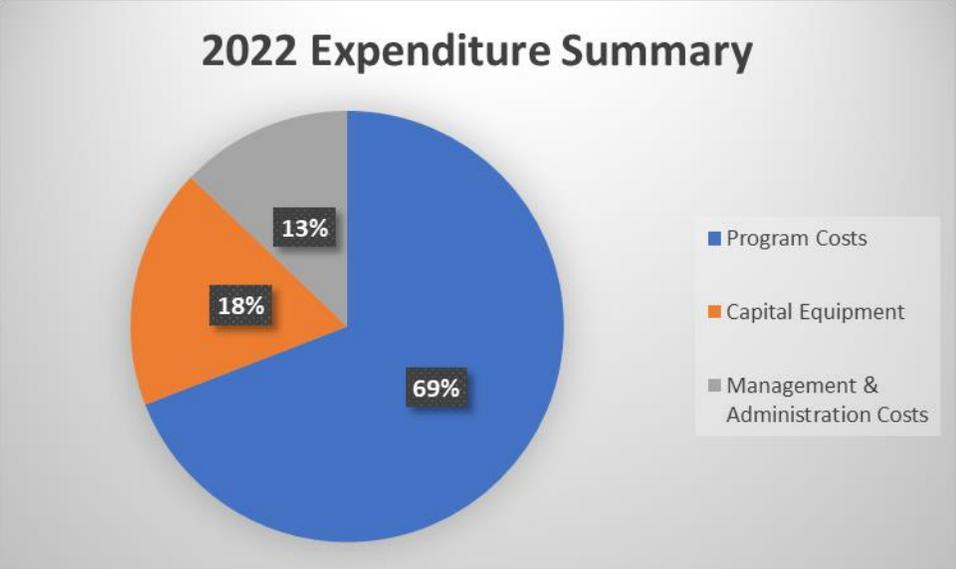
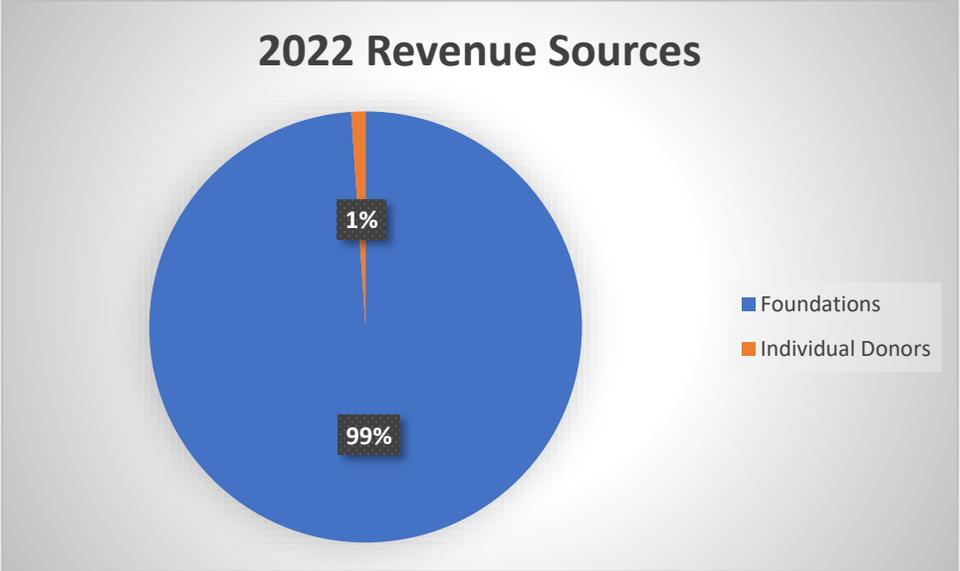
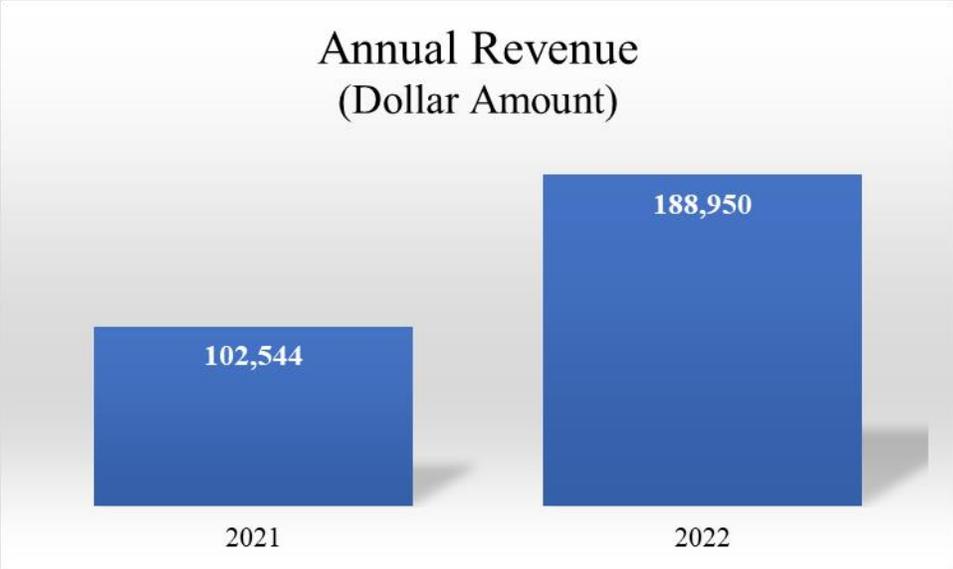
Meet Carolyn



Carolyn (on the left) in Malawi and her dear friend and African Library Project colleague, Jessy Mphunda. Jessy, like Evelyn, embodies the spirit and capability for action that empowers women and communities in their African country.

Our Financials

The 2022 financial year saw an increase in the organization's annual revenue. The organization raised \$188,950, an 84.2% increase from \$102,544 in 2021. Specifically, \$186,947 (99%) was raised through Foundations, and 2,003 (1%) from individual donors



During the 2022 financial year, the organization spent a total of \$ 148,487. \$102,602 (69%) was spent on Program Costs, \$26,819 (18%) was spent on Capital Equipment, and \$19,066 (13%) was spent on Management & Administration costs.

Looking Forward

We will support 750 refugee girls and women to form savings and lending groups through which they can access financial services, sexual and reproductive care as well as organize around climate justice and food production to feed their families.

We will work in partnership with others to provide family planning and cervical cancer screening services to 11,000 women of reproductive ages.

We will strengthen the capacity of the Youth SRHR Access Coalition to fulfil its mandate of advocating for increased access to SRHR services young people in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements.

We will invite likeminded organizations and individuals to join us and build a collaborative focused on increasing the participation of refugee communities in the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements.

THANK YOU!

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