



SHARED ACTION AFRICA
Together We Achieve

Annual Report

2021



Report Content

M Message from Our Chief Executive Officer



1 Who we are



2 How we work



3 Our Impact



4 Women's Economic Empowerment



5 Vocational Education



6 Building Resilience of Refugee Women to Climate Change



7 Refugee Women Access energy efficient cook Stoves



8 Reproductive Health and Rights



9 Impact Story



10 Advocacy Initiatives



11 Our Partners and Volunteers



12 2021 Financials



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As we close out the year, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the impact we have had on the lives of women and girls in refugee settlements and rural areas in Uganda. It is because of the dedication and support of our board, staff, partners, volunteers, donors, and other supporters that we have been able to achieve so much in the face of the many challenges we have faced in 2021.

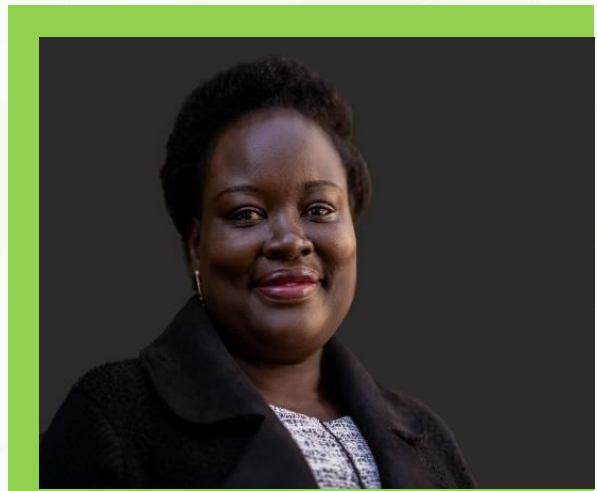
The energy and continued support provided by all of you is truly inspiring, and I am continually in awe of the compassion, knowledge, and dedication of our team. As we look ahead to 2022, I am filled with enthusiasm and optimism for the future and the positive impact we will continue to have on the lives of the women and girls we serve.

I am particularly proud of the remarkable work our staff, volunteers, and partners do daily to empower and improve the livelihoods of refugee women and girls. Through their tireless efforts, we have been able to accomplish so much, including providing family planning and cervical cancer screening services, forming savings and lending groups, training in climate-smart agriculture, and providing access to energy-efficient cookstoves women and girls in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements in the Isingiro district in Uganda.

As an organization, we have adapted to the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by maximizing the use of technology in our operations and fully embracing the virtual meeting space. We have also improved our external relations through our social media platforms and website, which continue to be an active source of information about our work.

In 2022, we will continue to strive for reproductive, economic, and climate justice for adolescent girls and women in rural areas and refugee settlements. We will also be launching a sexual and reproductive justice program that targets adolescent girls and young women to ensure that they have access to specialized youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health care.

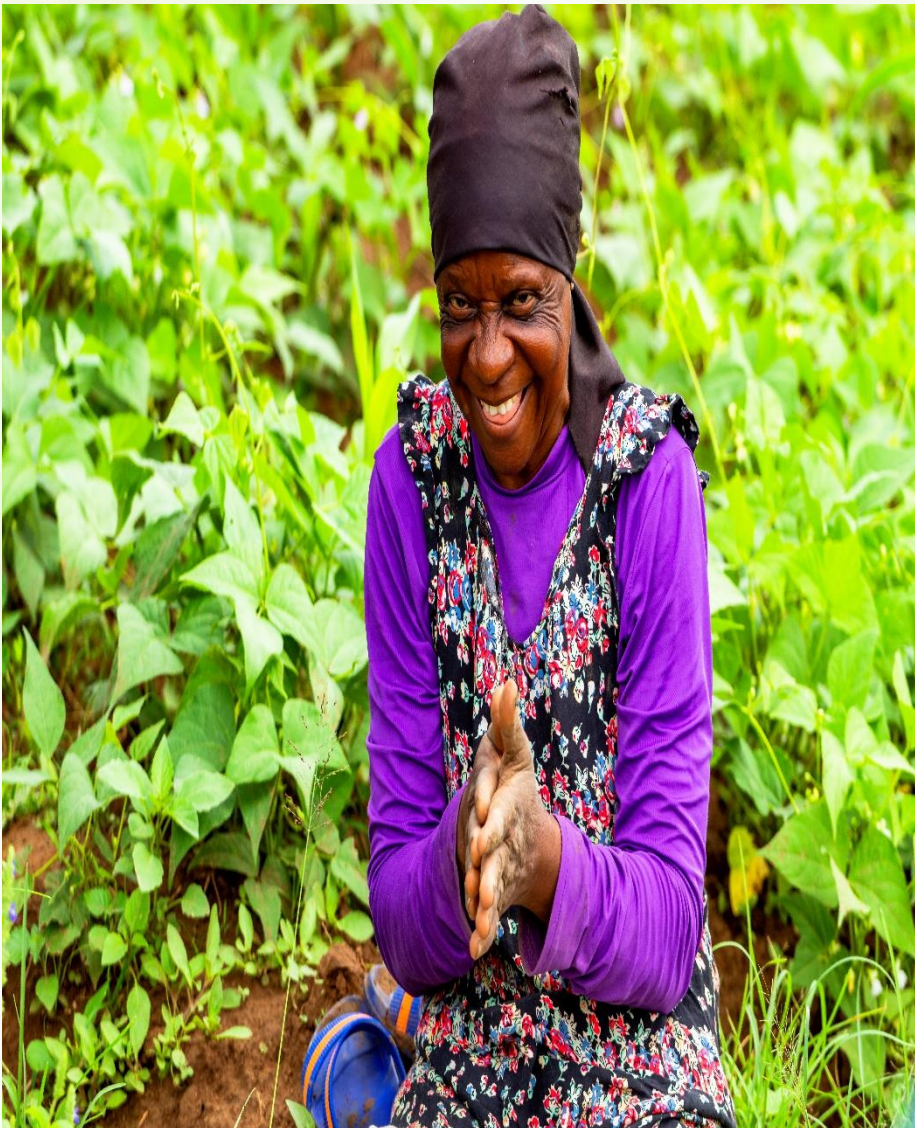
As I close, I want to reiterate our commitment to our organization's mission and extend an enthusiastic invitation to you to join us in 2022 as we continue this journey of empowering and improving the lives of women and girls in Uganda. Together, we can make a real difference.



Evelyn Nassuna
Chief Executive Officer

Who We Are

Our Vision and Mission were updated as part of our new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025



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.

Our Mission

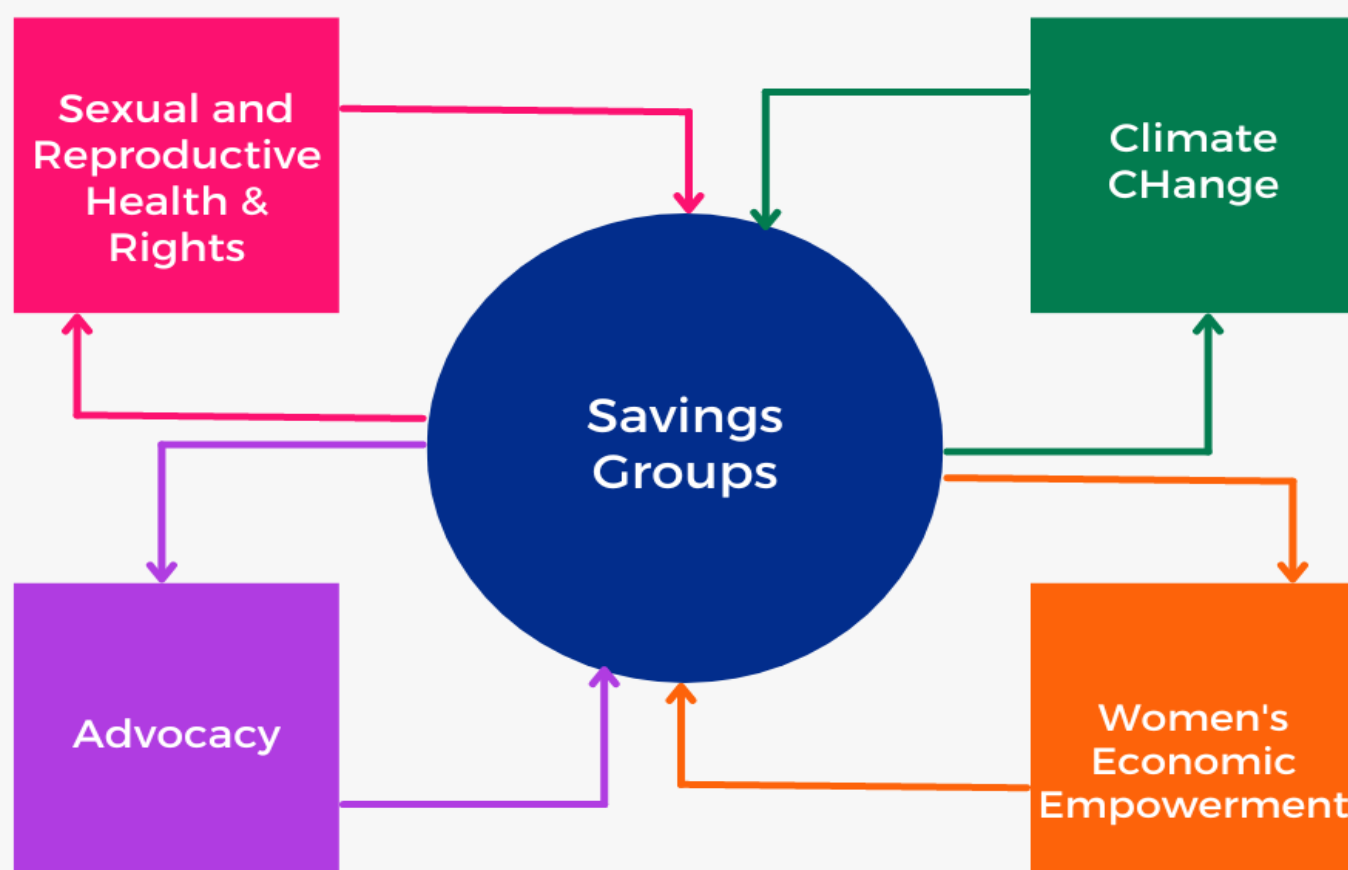
We support women and girls to attain sustainable livelihoods, lead healthy lives, and are agents of climate justice in rural and refugee areas in Uganda



How we Work

We use an integrated program delivery approach that leverages women's and youth led savings and lending groups to create synergy as well as address the interconnected and complex community needs.

By supporting women and girl leadership through expanded economic security, integrated with access to comprehensive sexual health and rights, and combined with advocacy and increased resilience to climate change, our program contributes to sustainable, equitable and thriving communities, families, and nations.



Our Impact

2021 RESULTS

2302

Women of Reproduction Age reached with family planning and cervical cancer screening



594

Refugee Women were mobilized and formed 20 Savings and Lending groups



419

Refugee women established kitchen gardens to improve house hold food security



370

Loans provided to improve household food security



594

Refugee Women came together and formed the Refugee Women's Movement



176

Refugee Women came together and established 6 community gardens



38

Refugee women used Energy Efficient Cookstoves



56

Out of school and young mothers trained in fashion design



Women's Economic Empowerment

864

Refugee women and girls participated in economic development activities to increase their skills and income

Through our Women's Economic Empowerment program, we supported 596 to participate in savings and lending groups, who jointly accumulated over \$6500 worth of capital that they used to provide over 370 loans to their members during 2021. The loans were mainly used to purchase food in response to the increasing food security particularly among women led households. Others used the loans to pay school fees and to improve their housing situation.

In addition, the savings groups provided a platform through which Shared Action Africa engaged the women and girls to participate in various development and advocacy programs that had an impact on their lives during they year. Such activities communal and kitchen gardening, and counselling and provision of family planning and other sexual and reproductive services, among others.



Vocational Education

56

Single mothers and school dropouts gained trade and employable skills

Through our Vocational and Education Training Program and in partnership Nakivale Women's Sewing Center, we run a six months tailoring program that targeted 56 young women, particularly single mothers and girls, particularly school drops ages 18-24 in Nakivale Refugee Settlement. During the training, they were skilled in fashion and design, tailoring, and the making of handcrafts including grocery bags, purses, and table mats, among others. In addition, were provided soft skills including customer care, how to plan and manage an enterprise, savings, budgeting, debt management and record keeping. After the training, 30 of the 56 trained young women, 30 came together and formed a savings groups with the objective of pooling money from which they could borrow and use to start individual tailoring business as well as meet their immediate financial needs.



Building Resilience of Refugee Women to Climate Change

In 2021, Shared Action Africa supported 419 refugee women to engage in kitchen gardening as an adaptative strategy to weather variability due to a changing climate in Nakivale and Oruchinga Refugee Settlements. Kitchen gardening was promoted because very little water is needed to grow the crops, mainly vegetables on a very small plot of land, usually in the backyard of one's home. In addition, if well managed, has the potential to provide nutritious foods, particularly vegetables for the family all year round, thus contributing to a more balanced diet and healthy families.

"While my family and I consume some of the vegetables I grow in my kitchen garden for our health needs, I also sell the surplus in my shop, and this supplements the income I generate from my other business. This income helps me meet basic needs like buying food, emergency drugs for minor illnesses, clothing, and also my weekly basis savings in my savings group." Beatrice Nimbonera, a widow and refugee from Burundi.

widow and refugee from Burundi



Refugee Women Access Energy Efficient Cookstoves

Refugee Women Access Energy Efficient Cookstoves

During 2021, 38 refugee women in Nakivale Refugee Settlement were supported to continue using the energy efficient cookstoves that were subsidized by SAA through its Refugee Women Energy Efficient Cookstove access Programs to ensure that their energy efficient cookstoves remain efficient and wood is the most important energy source for cooking in households.

"I am grateful that I got this energy an energy efficient cookstove. Using it to cook our food helped me reduce the amount of money I used to spend on charcoal by almost 50% per month. It is for this reason that I continue attending sessions that will help me keep my cookstove working efficiently" Sifa, a mother of three and a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo



Reproductive Health and Rights

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2,302

***Women of Reproductive
age accessed family
planning and cervical
cancer screening
Services***

”

During 2021, Shared Action through its Integrated Family Planning Program, supported 2,302 refugee women and nationals of ages 15- 49 to access family planning and cervical cancer screening services. This was achieved by addressing both the supply and demand-driven barriers impeding them girls and women from accessing and utilizing these services. These include among others debunking myths and misconceptions that discourage voluntary family planning seeking behavior as well increasing of knowledge on the available family planning methods available in the project area.

Holding community reflective dialogues, combined with continued counselling and provision of family planning methods to improved family seeking behavior in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements. Access to family planning resulted in better health and economic outcomes for women because women were able to have more time outside their home and participate more in economic and social activities. Similarly, the women who used contraceptives reported to having better health and energy to look after themselves as well as their families.



IMPACT STORY

Francoise Gahinja and her husband Bonane Habarurema are 37-year-old refugees from Rwanda who have settled in Isanja village, Nakivale refugee settlement. They have eight children and their ninth child passed on three years ago. Francoise and her husband have experienced difficult times due to having a large family that they cannot provide for. It is for this reason that they agreed to use family planning, and also opted for a permanent method a Bilateral Tubal Ligation (BTL).

"When we were counselled about family planning, we were not aware that we could access a permanent method in the settlement, and therefore would not have to travel over 80Kms to access the same. We decided to opt for a BTL because we had a big family, and we are very thankful to Shared Action Africa for supporting us through this process. Having a BTL liberated myself. I am now able to enjoy sex without worrying about getting pregnant, more importantly, I now attend my savings groups group meeting regularly."



Advocacy Initiatives

During 2021, Shared Action Africa under the Economic Justice Project mobilized 594 refugee women Savings and Lending Groups (594 women) to launch a movement they called The Refugee Women's Movement that successfully lobbied the Office of the Prime Minister for 6.5 acres of land on which they established 6 communal gardens, and which they staple foods including beans and groundnuts, which went a long way in improving the diet of over 176 women headed households. In addition, the members of the 6 Savings and Lending groups sold the surplus from the harvest and earned some income

Similarly, during 2021, Shared Action Africa under the Arise for Youth Reproductive Justice mobilized 170 adolescent girls (150) and boys (20) and formed the Youth SRHR Collective for Nakivale and Oruchinga Refugee Settlements. The Youth SRHR Collective petitioned UNCHR, Medical Teams International and the Office of the Prime Minister requesting the three institutions to establish youth friendly corners at 3 selected health facilities in order to increase young people's access to youth friendly sexual and reproductive services which were not available at all health facilities within Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements.



Our Partners and Volunteers

Our Partners

Thank you, our donors, for your generous gifts. Your contributions enabled the adolescent girls and women in the refugee settlements and host communities to receive uninterrupted services, particularly amidst the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. Thank you, One World Children's Fund, Preston-Werner Ventures, Global Fund for Women, Bergstrom Foundation, Rotary Club of Marin County Sunrise, and the individual donors, for supporting our mission. Likewise, we thank all our supporters and implementing partners for the collaborative efforts that you participated in during 2021 and for making all our amazing achievements possible this year. Together we arise.

Our Volunteers

Thank you, our volunteers, for agreeing to serve in this capacity. Your commitment makes a difference. We thank our volunteers for their willingness to share their time and services to help us continue serving the communities in Nakivale and Oruchinga throughout the year. Your support of Shared Action Africa's mission allows us to serve over 200,000 people in the community each year, providing access to sexual and reproductive health services including family planning and cervical cancer screening, financial services, agricultural inputs, smart agriculture, and entrepreneurship, which they would not otherwise be able to afford.

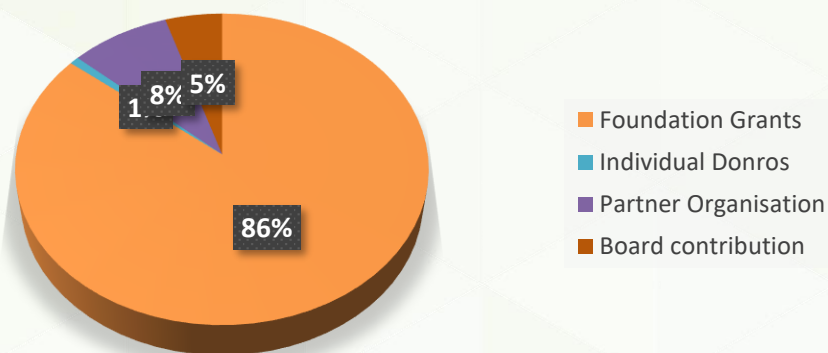


2021 FINANCIALS

During Our financial year for 2020/21 running from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the organization raised \$102,544, of which \$87,970 (86%) was raised through Foundations, 821 (1%) from individual donors, \$8,753 (8%) from Partner organization and \$5,000 (5%) came from the board of directors.

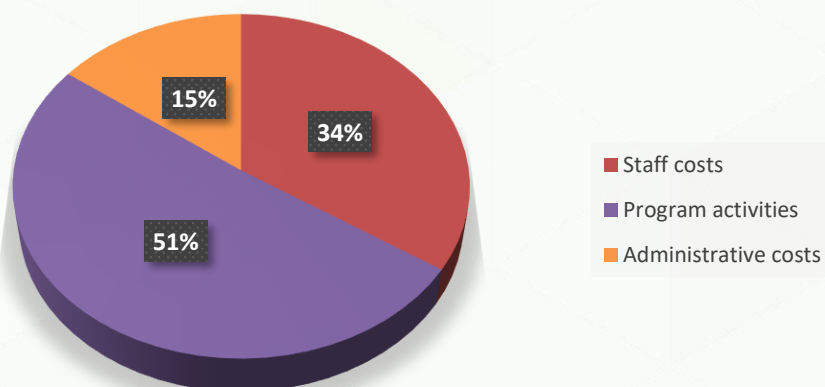
Revenue FY 2020/21	Amount
Donor Funds	\$87,970
Individual Donors	\$821
Partner Organizations	\$8,753
Board Contribution	\$5,000
Total	\$102,544

Sources of Revenue for FY 2020/21



Expenditur FY2020/21	Amount (\$)	%age
Staff costs	27,370	34
Program activities	40,612	51
Administrative costs	11,874	15

Expenditure in the FY2020/21



THANK YOU

Contact Us

Plot 88 Bunyonyi Drive, Nakawa
P . O . Box 72519
Kampala, Uganda 19801
Email: Info@sharedact.org
Phone: +256 782 250660

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