



SAPPHIRE
AFRICA FOUNDATION



**Welfare For Vulnerable groups
Potential In Everyone**

Sapphire Africa Foundation
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Published by Sapphire Africa Foundation
Plot 89, Aga House, Upper Mawanda Rd
Kampala Uganda
Contact: Info@sapphireafricafoundation.org
Website: www.sapphireafricafoundation.org
Suggested Citation: SAF Annual 2023
Uganda: Sapphire Africa Foundation, November 2023
Reg No. 80020002504455
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Cover: Sapphire Africa Foundation programs on
Give a Hope and People with Disability inclusion.
Together we are making a difference.
Photos by TINKASIMIRE.

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Brittany, one of the nurses from Virginia in the United States of America, attends to a patient at our latest medical camp in Nakaseke District, where 3500 were treated and others attended too.

NAKASEKE, AUGUST 2023
SAF/MC334 Tinkasimire



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NAKASEKE, AUGUST 2023
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Foreword



For Many people across Uganda and beyond, 2023 was a year fraught with difficult challenges, financial difficulties and intractable crises, as the economy was trying to recover as with many countries across the globe. Thousands suffered the consequences of the bad economy, hunger and conflicts in the west Many, struggled to access essential services amidst tough times, or continued to feel the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

These were among the factors which led to a big crisis in our country, with 45 % school children dropping out of school. Over the course of the year, many communities saw the costs of basic food and goods skyrocket, pushing more families into poverty. For more than 9 years, Sapphire Africa Foundation has worked to protect children and other vulnerable groups during such challenging times, to support their development, education, health and to help them skills for them to sustain themselves. And in 2023, with more children in need than at any other time in our organization's history, we had to be at our best. Guided by our new 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, Sapphire Africa Foundation continued to deliver life-saving and life-changing results for children with a focus on reaching the most vulnerable in health and education.

The results presented in this report were achieved through the dedication and courage of staff working across more 12 Districts of Uganda and Kenya. From the Hot Northern Uganda to

the south in Kabale and territories of Kisumu in Kenya – Sapphire Africa Foundation was there. We made historic advances in helping children and families. We implemented education and health campaigns in humanitarian needs.

We confronted the regional learning crisis and expanded our efforts to prevent and address the problem of illiteracy. And we worked with our donors and other stakeholders to strengthen the systems that children and their families rely on – like health care, sanitation and education – to support their development. This past year, Sapphire Africa Foundation also elevated skills development for sustainability as a priority across the organization. This included expanding our support to communities to learn and be trained on life saving vocational skills that can help them to earn some income. And we are helping local communities transition from depending on donations to start making a living through the skills and startups we help them with through this system we believe that we shall eradicate poverty in many communities.

This progress was made possible thanks to the strength of our partnerships and record level support from our donors and supporters. Throughout this year, Sapphire Africa Foundation deepened its engagement and innovative work with Health institutions, the private sector and other donors. Yet our most critical partnership remains with the local people that we serve and mostly the young people. They have an integral role to play in creating solutions to the challenges and crises we face. They are present and future innovators, leaders, peacemakers and changemakers. The future may be deeply uncertain sometimes, but it is theirs. With your continued support, we can build on the achievements made in 2023 to make our world truly fit for everyone.

Paul Collins

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Collins". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Delivering Children In A Year Of Polycrisis.

Primary seven pupils after receiving books for the academic term two. Sapphire Africa Foundation distributes scholastic materials and sanitary pads, and lunch to a number of school children across Uganda.

Kabarole District 2023

SAF/GH 506

MHZ Photography



The ongoing recovery from COVID-19 effects. Violent conflicts. Climate change and environmental degradation. Skyrocketing costs of living. Outbreaks of diseases. Today's children are growing up in a world of polycrisis. In Uganda we have seen the worst food and nutrition crisis in modern times, leading to a shocking increase in wasting among children in Uganda and some of the world's poorest countries. Despite these challenges, Sapphire Africa Foundation remained vigilant and undaunted. In 2023, we continued to reach as many families across the region as in recent years with services through our programs. We advocated for policies and investment to support the health, education, well-being and protection of children and disabled people. We worked in over 20 districts and territories, including the world's toughest places. We never let our guards down.

By investing in foresight, preparedness and adaptability, and implementing better ways of preventing and coping with crises, we are equipping ourselves as an organization – children and communities we serve – to navigate this uncertain world. This year we have seen the most growing need for food in modern times, leading to a shocking increase in wasting among children in many parts of the country. And even as the COVID-19 pandemic winds down, its harmful impact on children and teenagers continues. Learning losses persist, the proportion of 10-year-olds who cannot read or understand a simple text has surged to more than 70 percent and we have continued greatly to reach out to children in many schools.

The global economic crisis has exacerbated the deprivations facing the most vulnerable children. With the fact that most of our donors are individual donors who were deeply affected by Covid 19. Projections show one in four children living under national poverty lines in 2023 in Uganda.

The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance continues to grow, and many people continue reaching out to us asking for help and this year the number of families that we support with basic needs rose from 21 to 32. In 2023, we continued to reach as many children across the country even in the deepest places of Uganda as in recent years with services through Sapphire Africa Foundation programs. We advocated and raised our voices to our donors and supporters for policies and investment to support the health, education, well-being, literacy and empowerment for young women and skilling the youth. We worked in over 10 districts and territories, including the world's toughest places. We never let our guard down.

Sapphire Africa Foundation is committed to tackle the serious challenges in education, literacy and empowerment, skilling, sanitation and hygiene, and mental health. By investing in foresight, preparedness and adaptability, and implementing better ways of preventing and coping with these big challenges, we are equipping ourselves as an organization – and the children and communities we serve – to navigate this uncertain world.

[Noelina Karungi, a P.3 student at Kiguma Primary School, lost a father and is supported by the Sapphire Africa Foundation.](#)





Sapphire Africa Foundation's top 5 Achievements 2023



The SAF medical Camp 2023

Over 3400 people treated and attended too our experienced team of health workers In Nakaseke District. Children, women and the elderly were treated of Malaria, dental issues, High Blood pressure, skin diseases, ulcers and many other diseases. MBN lab helped us to conduct more than 1000 tests, aside from general blood tests we did HIV and Hepatitis B tests. We distributed the most needed medicine to people who attended the camp. Special thanks to Mavid Pharmaceuticals and MBN laboratories.



Give A Hope

Keeping children in school. 68 vulnerable Kids attended School on our full sponsorship with school fees and lunch. For other children in different schools across the 9 districts of Uganda where we have our presence, we made sure they had lunch and sanitary pads to keep girls in school. Special thanks to our donors and supporters.



Improving Housing and Hygiene

In a way to improve housing to improve housing for the vulnerable people we constructed a two-bedroom house to Nightrose one of the disabled women in Nakaseke district. We found Nightrose living under a tree and got her into a home where she could rest her head. We also helped Paul Kayonga to build a modern pit latrine which would enable him and the family live and maintain proper hygiene mostly to a parent with kids living with kids suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.



Renovation and Establishment of Resource Center

2023 we renovated and established the Sapphire Literacy and Empowerment Resource Center. The center will be a learning center for the women, young girls, and boys. The center shall teach vocational skills and empower women with skills to make them more sustainable their incomes. The skills will include among others Knitting, tailoring, Baking, hairdressing, cooking, soap making, computer skills and media skills.



42 families helped

We have reached out to more than 42 households in our different outreach programs. We have traveled even to the deepest places to reach out to the vulnerable people with supplies like food, clothes, medicine and other great needs. These families also include disabled families in North, west, and central Uganda.

TOGETHER WITH YOU.

Helping people, fulfilling the potential of vulnerable families and disadvantaged groups.

Part I

Goal Areas

Sapphire Africa Foundation aims to achieve long-term results in **five interconnected Goal Areas** linked to Welfare and proper livelihood. This will help to ensure that, in all contexts, including humanitarian crises, vulnerability and fragile settings, every child, women and young girls. (1) Developing vocational skills to increase sustainability through learning and acquiring skills for the future; (2) To give education through give a hope program, every child will access free education (3) Helping disables families and families with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy cope and be more inclusive (4) Reaching out to poor and vulnerable families helping the to have access to safe and equitable WASH services, supplies and basic needs

Goal Area I

Developing Vocational Education and Training for Sustainability

In light of a rapidly evolving world of work, the significance of Vocational Education and Training (VET) comes to the forefront. We realized our people who can't access modern formal education can benefit greatly from VET by creating self-employment and in turn improve their incomes. VET possesses the capacity to cultivate the skills demanded in today's labor markets and societies. Simultaneously, shifts in structure underscore the necessity of re-evaluating specific aspects of VET systems in certain countries, ensuring their resilience and their ability to capitalize on the opportunities presented by ongoing changes. This report focuses on four pivotal aspects of VET systems that are prepared for the future. Mostly with our new community centre and the resource room we hope for a big transformation.

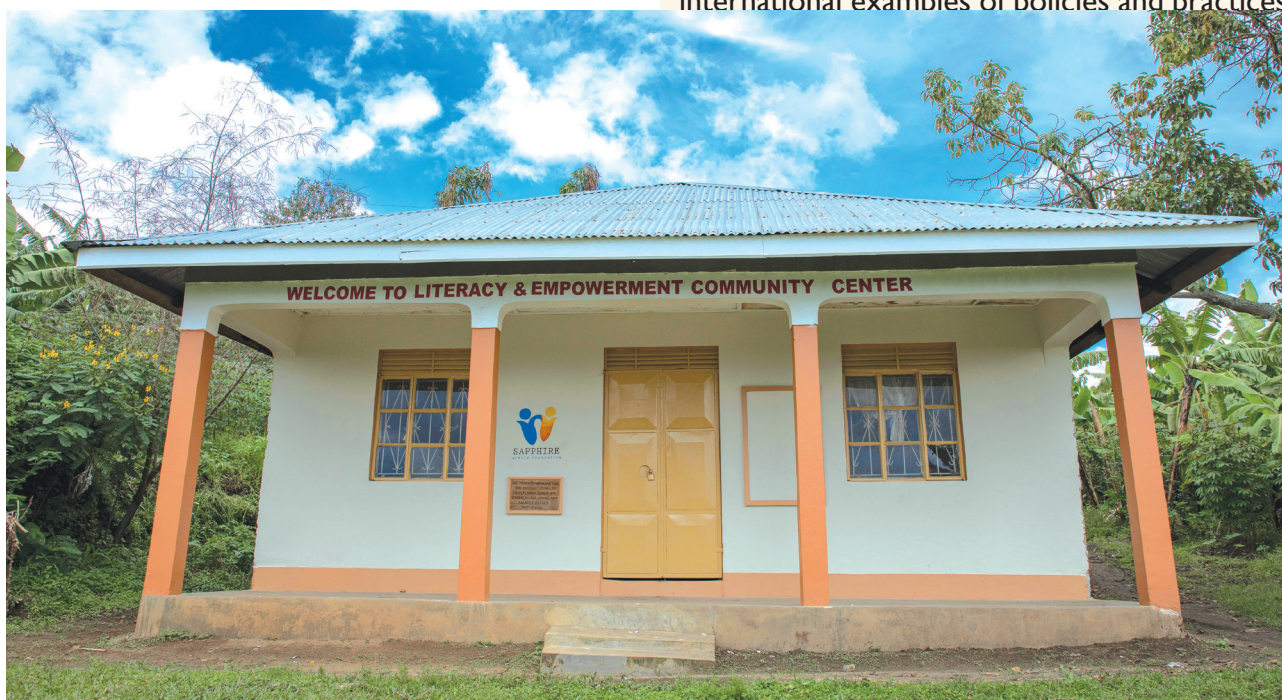
The New Sapphire Africa Foundation Resource centre in Fort Portal, Kabarole District.

The centre will Train and Teach Vocational Skills for more than 500 women each year

Key Results

We expect mostly women and young girls to be transformed in the community that we serve because for the little time we introduced VET we have realized.

- > Adaptability to evolving skill requirements;
 - > The capacity to tailor VET to suit everyone;
 - > The aptitude to facilitate transitions into a changing labour market and continuous learning;
 - > The potential of digital technology to revolutionize the design and delivery of VET.
- For each of these dimensions, the report outlines a series of critical questions that policymakers and other stakeholders in VET should contemplate when restructuring VET to enhance its readiness for the future. It also provides insights drawn from data and international examples of policies and practices.



Goal Area 2 Give A Hope

The year 2023 marked a transition from a state of global education emergency to end the response towards recovery and take real strides towards the future of education. This year we have seen schools and students overcome the effects of Covid and focus back on education. Despite the challenges, significant efforts have been made to help learners recover the learning losses, including through leveraging technology and accelerated learning methods and protecting girls children especially in the rural areas of Uganda where we face big problems with Sanitary hygiene, a factor that had led many girls to drop out of school. In 2023, give a hope programme expanded to 10 districts in Uganda helping the most vulnerable children from poor families and also helping girls have sanitary wear.

We gave out more than 2000 Lunch packs to all the children we support to keep them strong in school and help them study well. In Uganda, the share of children living in learning poverty – already at 57 per cent before the pandemic – has increased to 70 per cent, The number of out-of-school children has reduced by over 35 per cent over the past two decades.

Sapphire Africa Foundation's Paul Collins During an engagement with school Children in western Uganda



Key Results

- >70 children and adolescents (52 per cent girls) accessed education in 2023 across the 9 districts of Uganda in humanitarian settings.
- >Sanitary wear reached 2300 children, while 30 school management committees or similar bodies received training through Sapphire Africa Foundation programs.
- >We served more 5000 lunches throughout the course of the year enabling students to study while not hungry and this greatly amplified their performance.

In 2023, Sapphire Africa Foundation urged the government to endorse and commit to the RAPID agenda: Reach and retain every child in school; Assess learning levels; Prioritize teaching the fundamentals; Increase catch-up learning and progress beyond what was lost; and develop psychosocial health and well-being so every child is ready to learn. We also urged the government through its support bodies like Ministry of Education to adopt some new and modern methods of education and we are happy to report that even the parliament of Uganda talked about it.

Goal Area 3

Disability and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
Considering the global prevalence, one can make an educated estimate that about 230 boys are born in Uganda with this abnormality every year and about 12.4% of the population is living with a disability. It was found that disabilities are the most. This year we served many patients with mobility tools, food supplements to keep them strong. We continued to support families hit with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy and guiding them the best way to live with DMD. We visited more than 16 families and helped other parents to discover the disease and we shall be helping them to understand more about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, unfortunately many families with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in many rural families still believe Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is witchcraft. Whereas many disabled people have tried to cope with the disability with help from Sapphire Africa Foundation and other stakeholders, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy has largely become a big concern among many parents and in the second half of this year only, we lost 3 boys to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Philip Otieno, Brian and Herbert, May their souls RIP

Key Results

- Our dedicated outreach efforts have taken us to the homes of over 37 families with disabled members across North, Central, and Western Uganda. Our primary objective has been to assess their individual conditions comprehensively and provide assistance where it is most needed. Through these visits, a prevalent and urgent need for mobility tools has emerged as a common thread among the families we've encountered. This revelation underscores the critical importance of our mission to not only understand the unique challenges faced by each family but to proactively address their immediate requirements, with a particular focus on enhancing mobility and accessibility for those with disabilities.

- At our medical camp we provided to 87 individuals with disabilities with medical help. Beyond immediate medical attention, our dedicated team of doctors played a crucial role in conducting training sessions, equipping these individuals with valuable knowledge and skills on self-care. This holistic approach not only addressed their immediate healthcare needs but also empowered them with the tools to navigate and manage their conditions more effectively in the long term.
- America Physiotherapist Kristine Hanks will this November visit Uganda to take broader look that many seemingly complicated issues with disability. She will see more than 32 families across central and western Uganda.
- We have raised Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy awareness in many of our activities like Hike for Duchene and also involved the government of Uganda to be involved in helping families hit with this disease



Herbert Kitimbo from the Kayonga Family before he passed on this year. Children like these suffer a lot due to the little care they receive.

Goal Area 4

Outreaches

Many families remain in need because of the high poverty levels and the tough economic times, this has rendered many people helpless most with lack of necessities and basic needs to help them survive day to day and because of this many families have gone days with out food, lacked clothes and medical attention. While the proportion of people defined as 'poor' has fallen, the proportion of people who live above the poverty line but remain vulnerable to falling below it has increased Sapphire Africa Foundation has achieved a substantial impact, directly and indirectly assisting over 130 families in the current fiscal year. Through our dedicated outreach programs, we have provided essential provisions such as clothing, food, medicine, and vital health services to those in dire need..

Our commitment to comprehensive community support is exemplified through strategic collaborations with esteemed partners, including Protea Hotel, Bountiful Generation, and other stakeholders.

These partnerships have been instrumental in extending our reach and enhancing the effectiveness of our initiatives. As we continue our mission to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing significant challenges, the Sapphire Africa Foundation remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting holistic well-being and addressing the diverse needs of our communities.

Key Results

- Sapphire Africa Foundation support, reached out to over 200 people even in places that are hard to access.
- Sapphire Africa Foundation expanded partnerships and collaborations to reach more people, in different parts of the country.
- 4 districts had disability-inclusive social protection systems in 2023, up from nothing 2022. To promote the inclusion of children, disabled children and their families in national plans, budgets, datasets and service delivery systems.



One of our coordinators, Kiyingi Godfrey delivers a wheelchair in Nakaseke District. Many disabled people in rural Uganda struggle to have mobility tools

Sapphire Africa Foundation 2023 Christmas Outreach

Spreading the joy of Christmas

Sapphire Africa Foundation embarked on a heartwarming Christmas outreach, reaching out to more than 60 families across five districts of Uganda. With a mission to reach out to vulnerable families and the lives of those less fortunate, the foundation provided essential items such as food, clothes, shoes, and other necessities, creating lasting memories and spreading holiday cheer.

This Christmas outreach was not just an act of charity but a demonstration of love, unity and solidarity. The Sapphire Africa Foundation rallied volunteers, donors, and community members to come together and make a difference. The collaborative effort aimed to touch the lives of families in need, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.

Geographical Impact: The foundation's reach extended to five districts of Uganda, namely Fort Portal, Nakaseke, Luweero, Kyenjojo, and Wakiso, including the bustling city of Kampala.

By targeting diverse regions, the Sapphire Africa Foundation aimed to make a

broad and meaningful impact, ensuring that the holiday spirit was felt far and wide. We carefully curated the gifts to cater to the most pressing needs of the families. Each care package included a variety of food items to ensure a hearty Christmas meal, warm clothes to combat the cold weather, shoes for protection and comfort, and other necessities to improve the overall quality of life for the recipients. What set the Sapphire Africa Foundation's Christmas outreach apart was the personal touch given to each interaction. Volunteers took the time to engage with the families, sharing stories, laughter, and genuine moments of connection.

This personal touch not only brightened the recipients' holidays but also left a lasting impression on the volunteers, fostering a sense of fulfillment and community spirit. We are grateful to all our donors who helped us with all the necessary support to be able to reach out to our people.



Winnie one of the coordinators of Sapphire Africa Foundation reachout to the elderly in Kamuli, Nakaseke

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy:

The Trio That Left us

Brian Nuwamanya and Herbert Kitimbo from Uganda and Philip Otieno from Kisumu Kenya. The boys had been under the care of Sapphire Africa Foundation for years and it was so painful to lose them at such tender ages. Philip loved so much technology and we had just given him some funds to open up a video library the dream he didn't see come true. Brian loved school and was so smart in class; he died a day after finishing primary school. Herbert was also a big dreamer and a leader in his family. They will always be remembered. This was a big blow for 2023, had never lost experienced such a loss in the organization.

Humanitarian Action 2023



Philip Otieno



Herbert Kitimbo



Brian Nuwamanya

In 2023, Sapphire Africa Foundation responded to crises, ranging from health, education, natural disasters, economic issues aggravated by poverty, including education in Northern Uganda Gulu, devastating Malaria in Nakaseke; Education in , Kabarole District. Children living in rural communities continue to come under malaria attack on an alarming scale. Recent years have seen more children get affected

- The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance continued to grow in 2023, reaching about 38%, from 17% in 2021.

Key Results

- We distributed more than 200 Mosquito nets to different households to curb the spread of Malaria in a campaign which was championed by Tammie Parker to curb
- Reached out to more than 3500 in Nakaseke district during our two-day medical camp which was held in Kamuli
- Made a collaboration with MBN the best laboratory in the country. This will ease testing and discovery of diseases that have overtime bothered our people.



Jane Kobusinge one of the beneficiaries of our mosquito net campaign receives a mosquito net in Karago, Kabarole district. Mosquito nets are so key in preventing malaria in many communities across Uganda

Part 2

Change Strategies

Sapphire Africa Foundation's change strategies are key to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development, incomes and Women empowerment.

1. VET – Vocational education and Training

Vocational Training Now, more than ever, Vocational skills are critical to building a better and empowered world with Women and the youth. Sapphire Africa Foundation is committed to design, use and scale truly transformational solutions for everyone to acquire skills. Sapphire Africa Foundation delivered Skilling Machines – to help more than 200 rural women every month to acquire life skills to help them improve house hold incomes.

Sapphire Africa Foundation has established a community centre with a resource room that will be able to accommodate rural individual to acquire skills like tailoring, knitting, baking, Media and computer literacy. The centre will give skills that truly change the shape of the community's income. According to our plans we shall have many centre like these across the country to boost livelihood.

2. Adequate Housing

Adequate housing is a crucial step in breaking the cycle of poverty. It provides a foundation for individuals and families to focus on education, work, and other opportunities for upward mobility. Sapphire Africa Foundation is prioritizing infrastructure for the rural vulnerable people because Stable housing fosters a sense of community. It allows individuals and families to establish roots, form connections with neighbors, and participate in community activities. We found Nighthrose living under a tree and made it possible for her to get a good place where he and his grandson would live.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene – WASH

In response to the dire living conditions faced by Paul Kayonga and his family, the Sapphire Africa Foundation, Sapphire Africa Foundation our esteemed donors, undertook a project to construct a modern pit latrine. The family's existing latrine had become dilapidated, posing



Eddy Semakula bricklaying on one of the houses built by Sapphire Africa Foundation for Nighthrose: A woman under the Sapphire Africa Foundation program for the disabled.



Paul Kayonga's pit latrine in Sseganga Wakiso District, Days before Sapphire Africa Foundation Constructed a fully functional modern pit latrine.

serious health and safety risks, prompting intervention from local authorities. The old pit latrine had deteriorated over time, compromising the safety and well-being of the family members. Recognizing the critical nature of the situation, local authorities deemed it necessary to address the issue promptly. The new facility aimed to provide a sustainable and long-term solution to the family and also be a model facility for Hygiene.

Working with Young People and Women

Sapphire Africa Foundation is dedicated to being a women, child and youth powered organization Young people, children and women not only provide key input into Sapphire Africa Foundation's priorities, but they are also our most crucial partners in achieving results and driving sustainable change.

Children were a foundation stone for the biggining of Sapphire Africa Foundation and we have moved forward to take them as an important Pillar of the Organization.

In 2023, young volunteers played a significant

role across sectors including medical sector, School, coordination roles, doing everything from providing psychosocial support to delivering relief items to patients in rural areas. The same young people played an important role in arranging our medical camp for 2023 and made sure it was a resounding success. The did a lot in Linking the Voices of Youth platforms with our Global Advocacy Priorities which helped to engage young people in Sapphire Africa Foundation's campaigns,

The women Health teams were also a big boost in most of our Health activities and helping reach the information to communities we serve.

The women nurses Dana and Brittany did so well in organizing funds and making the medical camp possible.

Partnerships

SAPPHIRE AFRICA FOUNDATION cannot do it alone. SAPPHIRE AFRICA FOUNDATION unites with the public sector, private sector and civil society to improve children's health, nutrition, education and empower women. Our individual supporters help by donating, volunteering or being advocates for our work in their communities. During our medical camp we were joined by one of the biggest Laboratories in Uganda

Through engagement with businesses, Sapphire Africa Foundation reached over 2000 children and the recent example has been our recently finished Medical Camp. 23 country Coordinators and National Committees reported successful engagements with over 46 businesses and we hope this will create a significant change. Close collaboration with local partners remained a priority in 2023, as Sapphire Africa Foundation worked with 7 civil society partners including Bountiful generation humanitarian response.



A member of MBN lab attends to a patient at the Sapphire Medical Camp 2023. Sapphire Africa Foundation Partnered with MBN laboratories to treat more than 3500 people in Nakaseke District

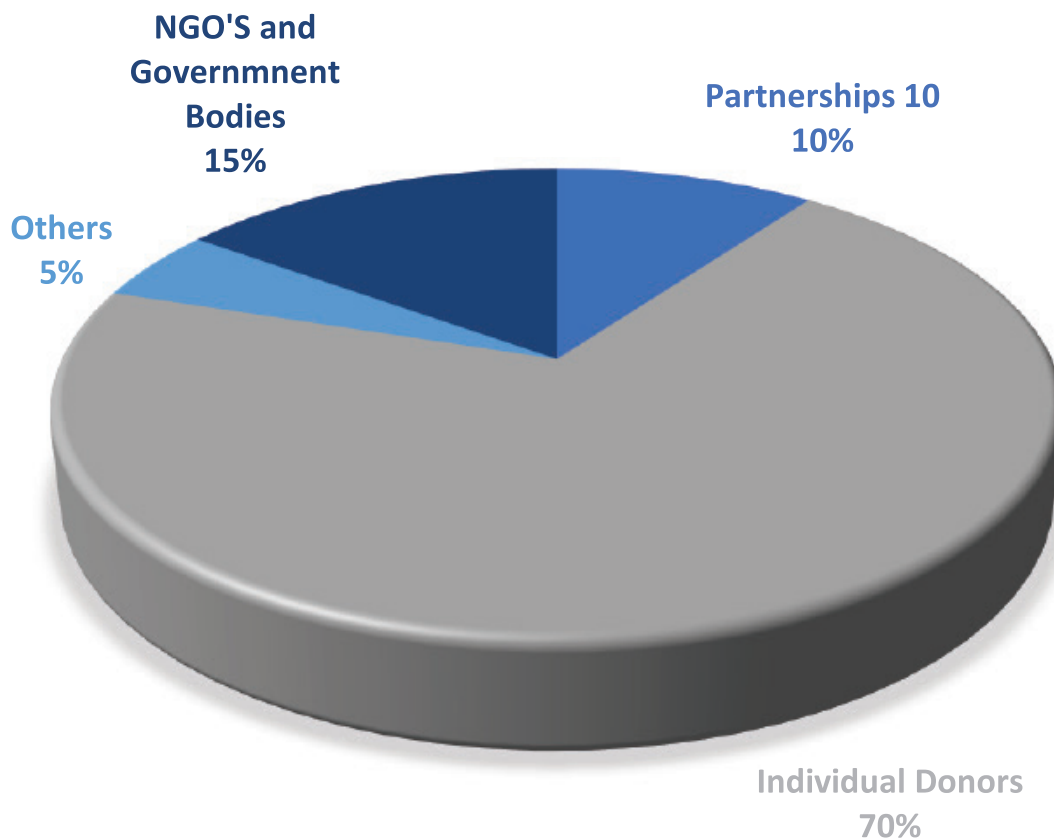
Part 3

Financial Indicators

Financial Indicators, 2023

Despite the many funding challenges Sapphire Africa Foundation faced in its fundraising efforts due to the transfer issues, supply chain disruptions and economic volatility, Sapphire Africa Foundation's revenue reached its highest level more than all the years

But while total Sapphire Africa Foundation revenue in 2023 grew by hundreds of dollars compared to 2022, Core Resources for Results (RR) decreased a bit. The declining proportion of RR to total revenue – dropping – continues the trend away from the Funding Compact commitment made by our donors. RR funding is essential to us being a mandate-driven rather than a project-driven organization. RR funding ensures that we deal with the urgent problems mostly with disability and outreaches which take up our largest revenue.





Donors

Partners and Organizations

MBN Labs
Imagine Her
Ropa Spaces
Mavid Pharmaceuticals

Individual Donors

Celia Pompey	Celia Pompey
Heather McIntosh	Heather McIntosh
Tammie Parker	Tammie Parker
Brittany Hash	Brittany Hash
Dana Leigh	Dana Leigh

