

Annual Review 2022-2023



Members of a women's enterprise group in Obalanga, Uganda



This year we are celebrating that

30,466

people benefitted from our work
across three different countries!

Dear friend

I was chatting with my six-year-old son recently about how quickly I felt this year was going by. He looked up and said in earnest, “well, you must be having fun daddy”, which is better than being so busy the weeks pass by in a blur!

It is a quirk of life isn't it that we perceive time to pass more quickly when we are both having fun and juggling all that life throws our way? Working with the team & our partners to pull together facts, figures, and stories for these annual reviews provides a wonderful opportunity for pause and reflection. It can be so easy to be caught up in the day to day that we lose sight of the bigger picture: of the impact we are together having on the world.

There is a real energy in Signpost at the moment as we have seen our team of staff and volunteers grow this year, expanded our programmes into Kenya, and in Dundee we are seeing the vision for our centre, the Roundhouse, coming to fruition. If you have not yet visited us, then please do drop by for a bite to eat and take some time to linger and learn a little more of what we do first-hand in our Centre for Sustainable Learning.

So, wherever you are can I invite you to pause. Get yourself a cup of tea, sit down, and soak in these stories of impact - of lives transformed – and remember that none of this would have been possible without **your** support. So thank you from me, from the team here, and from the tens of thousands of neighbours around the globe who have benefitted from your support this past year.

Jamie Morrison, Chief Executive Officer

Nyada Primary School, Kapelebyong District, Uganda

The challenge:

Previously, Nyada Primary School had a lack of school meal provisions. Students often arrived on an empty stomach and struggled to concentrate. 84% of pupils in the area reported not eating anything while at school with 14% of those going home for lunch not returning for afternoon lessons.

Our response:

We partnered with Voluntary Action for Development to develop a sustainable feeding programme which provides a daily nutritious meal for students and teachers. Pupils and teachers were equipped with the tools, knowledge, and skills to grow and prepare their own food.

The school received all the equipment needed for production in addition to crop drying racks, a new food store, kitchen and energy saving stoves.

Furthermore, we provided training in best agronomic practices, sustainable climate-sensitive agriculture, and post-harvest handling of crops.

The impact:

Despite challenges of a global pandemic, teacher strikes, organisational staff changes and extreme hot weather and rain fall due to climate change, the school reported that they were able to harvest just over 2.1 tonnes of food with only 9% of pupils now reporting feeling hungry during school.

Furthermore, parents contributed some food ensuring that children could eat meals during the school term post-harvesting.

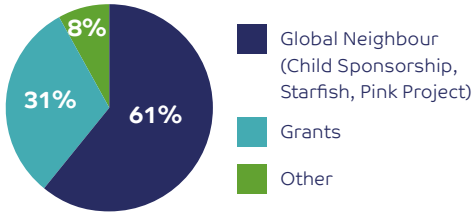


32,580

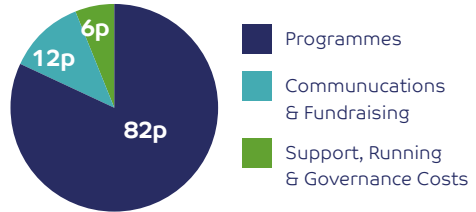
nutritious school meals produced on a monthly basis in our school agriculture programmes

Income and expenditure

Total income:
£314,046



Total expenditure:
£358,557



Support, Running and Governance Costs (6p)

Putting robust systems in place to enable and evaluate our work is vital so that we can continually learn, improve, and ensure that your money is used more effectively as a result.

Communications and Fundraising (12p)

As a Global Neighbour you are vital to everything we do at Signpost International. Your prayers, financial gifts and encouraging and loyal support means that to us you are an important part of the Signpost family.

Our communications and fundraising is all about relationships, helping our Global Neighbours hear the voices and see the faces of those that their generous gifts are helping. We also want to inspire people to share in our mission and join us on our journey.

Programmes (82p)

To read more about our programmes, please unfold.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge the support from the following Trusts/Foundation: Baillie Gifford International Fund, Berfred Foundation, British & Foreign School Society, Charles Hayward Foundation, Claremont Trust, Claverhouse Rotary Club, CMHW Fund, Dixon Minto, Dundee City Council CRF, Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission, Lang Charitable Trust, Leng Charitable Trust, National Lottery Awards for All, Proctor Group, Souter Charitable Trust and Wm Sword Charitable Trust.



434
Individuals supported
our work as
Global Neighbours



£176,738
Given by Global Neighbours
to take action against
poverty

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



Project: Safe, clean water for all the community

Location: Avubu Primary School, Nebbi District, Uganda

Partner: Action for Rural Women's Empowerment – ARUWE



The challenge:

William Wajom-nitho, 53, has lived in Atido Village all his life. His family used to collect water from the stream down the valley. This was their main water source which they used for drinking, cooking and household chores, however, during the wet season, the water would become brown and smelly with run-off. William's family often suffered from water borne diseases and water related skin diseases. This impacted his three grandchildren's education greatly, one of whom missed their end of term exams due to stomach pain.

Furthermore, there was not enough water for the three surrounding villages that used the stream, causing conflict and frustration among those waiting in line for water.

Our response:

Thanks to the Souter Charitable Trust and funds raised from our supporters, we were able to install a borehole at Avubu Primary School in partnership with ARUWE.

The borehole provides clean, safe and easily accessible water, not just for William and his family, but for 944 pupils, 11 teachers and a further 450 community members. The life expectancy of a borehole is 25 years, meaning an estimated further 5625 pupils will benefit directly from the project.

ARUWE helped establish a WASH club and trained teachers and pupils in good water, sanitation and hygiene practices. Furthermore, a Water User Committee was formed and William was appointed as their chairperson. He is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the borehole, ensuring the whole community continues to have access to safe, clean water!

The impact:

William's family now spends less money on medicines as they are less frequently ill. More children report to school on time as they don't have to stand in line to fetch water before school.

Furthermore, the borehole has brought unity between the three villages. They now come together to make decisions as one team for the benefit of the whole community.



15,432,200
litres of safe water pumped
from new water sources



5,868
children benefitting from
improved latrines and
safe water at schools

Sustainable Livelihoods



Project: Empowering women through Income-Generating Enterprise

Location: Nakwijit Village, West Pokot, Kenya

Partner: Centre for Indigenous Child Rights - CICR

The challenge:

Nakwijit Village is located in an extremely rural area with very little infrastructure. The people who live here are primarily pastoralists.

Due to the nomadic nature of the community, there is little emphasis on formal education, resulting in high levels of illiteracy. Only 30% of women in the area have attended any formal education. Girls are often married at a very young age to look after the home and bear children. Sadly, women are often seen as second-class citizens.



Our response:

With the support from generous donors, we were able to fund a project with CICR which empowered and equipped a group of rural women to start income generating enterprises. Three enterprise programmes were established – “Songuot” Poultry Rearing, “Chepkulumen” Honey Processing and “Mochukwo” Kitchen Gardening.

32 women were trained in their chosen area as well as general business management and record keeping, enabling each woman to access a loan as part of the project which funded the start-up costs.

The impact:

The Kitchen Garden group have been able to feed their families and sell surplus food at the market. The Poultry group have reared healthy chickens which they can sell at market for a good price. And the remaining 10 women in the Honey Processing Group are preparing to harvest their honey.

22 of the women reported an increase of income and 85% reported improved literacy through learning bookkeeping.

In addition, there is increased harmony in households as the husbands appreciate their wife’s financial support.

All women who took part in the project reported an increase of self-confidence and feeling empowered.



380

people received training in enterprise development and management



5

local centres of excellence for agricultural production established

Hunger & Nutrition



Project: Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis by cooking meals!

Location: The Roundhouse Community Kitchen & Café, Dundee, Scotland

The challenge:

Since the end of 2021, families across the UK have felt the impact of the cost of living crisis. More than ever before, people have found their incomes do not cover the cost of essentials like heating and food.

The Trussell Trust reports that “close to 3 million emergency food parcels were distributed by food banks” and “the number of people that used a food bank for the first time was 760,000” in the past financial year.

Despite the increase in food costs, the UK still throws away around 9.5million tonnes of food every year.

Our response:

Our Community Kitchen is a hub of activity every day, producing 200 meals for local foodbanks and larders each week. We are rapidly outgrowing our storage facilities and have managed to source new equipment to store more food on arrival and the meals we make every week!

Our recipes are completely unique to us as we do not know what vegetables we will get from day to day. We can make anything from Pink Pasta Sauce (using Beetroot) to Avocado Chocolate Cake!

Nothing goes to waste at the Roundhouse Cafe – We have weekly ‘specials’ made from surplus food, sell recipe bags to the public, share additional surplus food with paying

customers (i.e. bread) and re-use jars for table decorations and storage in our community cafe.

Our community garden is now in full swing and we will use our home-grown salad and vegetables during the summer months. We now have a warm composting bin for cooked food waste as well as our normal compost area, so we have no food waste at all now!

The impact:

In the past year, we have provided 9,002 meals to the foodbanks and larders, as well as serving a growing number of customers in our community café. We have three members of paid staff: Ann - front of house, Louise - Food Project Coordinator, and Polleah – Education and Community Worker as well as 10 wonderful volunteers.



5,622 kg
of surplus food saved
from going to waste



9,002
meals distributed to
local foodbanks, larders
and hubs last year

Global Citizenship



Project: All
Location: All
Partner: All

The challenge:

There are many definitions of poverty. Human poverty is broad, complex, and multidimensional, and its characteristics vary widely from country to country, community to community and with time and season.

This is why we use a rights-based approach to define poverty. We describe poverty as **“disempowerment because poverty reduces the choices people can make for themselves and results in a lack of power to exert personal, economic, political and social liberty”**.

Our response:

We believe that people have a right to healthy, nutritious, affordable food. In Dundee, Scotland, we make meals for those on low incomes or who lack the knowledge to cook for themselves. This summer we are offering cooking classes for children and parents to teach the basics of nutrition.

We believe that women have a voice in the community. Women have a right to work, to earn money, to education. Our work in West Pokot, Kenya is challenging societal norms and practices by empowering women to start income-generating enterprises.

We believe that communities have the right to safe, clean drinking water and hygiene facilities. We have supported six Ugandan primary schools through installing boreholes & latrines, and providing WASH (Water, Hygiene and Sanitation) training.



We believe that we need to educate our nation about the impact of poverty in the world, both at home & abroad. Over the past year we have established positive local connections with two primary schools, a secondary school, a college, and a university. Through volunteering in the Roundhouse Café, eating meals made from surplus foods, or visiting another country (through VR headsets or in person), every opportunity is a life lesson.

We believe that as Global Citizens we have a responsibility to care for our planet. Last year, the Roundhouse Kitchen and Café saved 5,622kg of surplus food from going to landfill. Furthermore, in all our international projects, we reduce and off-set our carbon footprint by establishing community tree plots or providing fuel-efficient stoves.

The impact:

We have seen children from vulnerable homes fed and university students cooking in the kitchen in Scotland, women empowered to earn their own income in Kenya; WASH clubs established in Uganda and people around the world working together to take **action against poverty!**



8,420
people participated in
child rights and good
hygiene workshops



1
safeguarding policy and process
framework adopted by a district to
cover 225 educational settings



Boy smiling at Lomokori Primary School in Uganda



Action against poverty
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