

ANNUAL REPORT

The future we want

AVSI FOUNDATION, UGANDA

2022



People for development





Foreword

As we present the AVSI Foundation Uganda Annual Report for 2022, we celebrate 38 years of service to the people of Uganda. We are grateful for the support of our funders, partners, and staff, who have made it possible for us to continue our work even during the challenges and after-shock effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's report highlights our commitment to staying close to the people we serve in Uganda. We believe that the best way to help people is to listen to them, understand their needs, and work with them to create solutions. This approach is evident in all of our programs, from humanitarian relief to development projects.

We acknowledge the goodwill of our funders, partners, and staff, and the Government of Uganda in this journey towards a dignified life for everyone.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Makoha'.

John Makoha
Country Representative



SECTOR REACH IN 2022



Child Protection

14,606

Participants reached

Economic Strengthening and Livelihood

6,574

Participants reached



Education

65,396

Participants reached

Energy

718

Participants reached



Health

894,906

Participants reached

Vocational Training and Job Creation

11,069

Participants reached



Information and offices

Name: AVSI Foundation

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Created in 1972, AVSI is a non-profit organization which carries out development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects throughout the world.

Our Vision

AVSI works for a world where the person, aware of his/her value and dignity, is the protagonist of his/her own integral development and that of his/her community, even in crisis and emergency contexts.

Our Mission

AVSI implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self-discovery and recognition that the other person is a resource. Each project is conceived as an instrument to promote this awareness in everyone involved, has in itself a need for communicating and sharing and creates an impact capable of generating a positive change.

Our Method

In project implementation, AVSI uses the following approach:

- To start from the value of the person, who is never defined by the circumstances in which s/he lives.
- To consider the person always in his/her family and community context.
- To do with: accompany and let ourselves be accompanied, recognizing that we all share the same human experience.
- To involve all stakeholders: encourage the participation of beneficiaries, providers, partners, donors, and the private sector.
- To learn from experience and capitalize on the lessons learned.

WHO WE ARE

General information about the Foundation

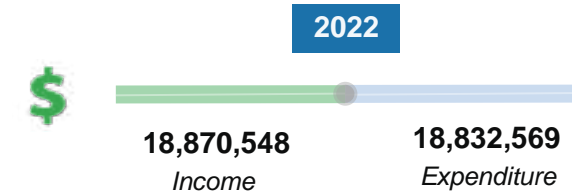
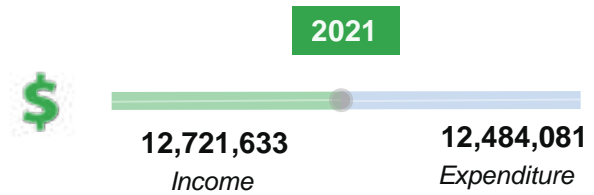




NUMBERS

Our income and expenditure

Total audited revenue 2021-2022



Quality and transparency

AVSI project design system conforms to UNI EN ISO 9001:2015 standards for cooperation, aid and development activities in partnership with and on behalf of main institutional, national and international donors.

OUR STAFF

In numbers



AVSI Foundation staff in Uganda



OUR PROJECTS

3
Years

Game Connect Sport for Protection

US Dollar 1.5 million project funded by the Olympic Refugee Foundation aimed at improving the lives of youth aged 15-24 years in Kampala, Kamwenge, Kyangwali, Adjumani and Lamwo Districts.

1
Year

Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D)

US Dollar 189,000 project funded by GIZ for technical and business skilling training aimed to maximize the economic impact of electricity in the villages of Mpigi District.

18
Months

Productive Use of Energy Project in Palabek Refugee Settlement

Euro 320,000 project funded by GIZ aimed at improving rural electrification in the Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District.

3
Years

StrongMinds Uganda

US Dollar 100,000 project providing mental health education and an evidence-based talk therapy intervention for depression to the refugee population and surrounding community of Palabek, Lamwo District.

1
Year

USAID ICYD GUC Track 1

US Dollar 250,000 project funded by USAID to assist in returning children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown to school through the Accelerated Education Program.

7
Months

WINGS+ Technical Assistance, JSI

US Dollar 38,000 technical assistance funded by GIZ to skill and create jobs for youth and women in Mpigi District.

OUR PROJECTS

1
Year

Education Cannot Wait

US Dollar 800,000 project funded by the African Development Bank through the Africa Climate Change Funds aimed to improve the environment through supporting women and youth to build energy saving businesses.

7
Years

Graduating to Resilience

US Dollar 36 million project in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement to graduate extremely poor refugee households and Ugandan vulnerable households from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance.

2
Years

Africa Climate Change Fund

Euro 780,000 project funded by the African Development Bank through the Africa Climate Change Funds to improve the environment through supporting women and youth to build energy saving businesses.

2
Years

Rural Employment Services

US Dollar 450,000 project funded by the International Labour Organization aimed at increasing employment opportunities for refugee and host community members in West Nile and South Western Uganda.

1
Year

ALIVE 7

Health System Strengthening on Integrated Reproductive Maternal New-born Child & Adolescent Health, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition services project funded by UNICEF to address the critical bottlenecks for HIV and nutrition services.

1
Year

Integrated Early Childhood Development

US Dollar 1.7 million project funded by UNICEF targeting boys and girls aged 3–5 years in the rural and urban poor and refugees to gain access and quality pre-primary education through formal and non-formal learning centers.

OUR PROJECTS

3
Months

Enhancing Child Protection during the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak

UGX 900 million shilling project funded by UNICEF to enhance child protection during emergency situations in Kampala and Wakiso Districts.

5
Years

Sustainable Market Inclusive Livelihood Pathways to Self-Reliance (SMILES)

Euro 25 million project funded by the IKEA Foundation to build sustainable livelihoods in Kyangwali and Kyaaka II Settlements and their hosting communities.

3
Years

EnCoMi: Coinvolgimento delle Comunità per Massimizzare l'impatto contro l'HIV, la Tuberculosis e la Malaria

Euro 800,000 project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to improve maternal and newborn health in Gulu and Amuru Districts.

4
Months

Enhanced Women's Financial and Digital Inclusion

UGX 280 million shilling project funded by the World Food Program to enhance the digital inclusion of women in Isingiro District.

4
Years

Skilling in Agripreneurship for increased Youth Employment

Euro 17.5 million project funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to increase agri-skill level and gainful employment for the youth.

1
Year

International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

Euro 26,000 project renewed annually to improve the quality of lives of persons with Spina Bifida and or with Hydrocephalus in Northern Uganda.

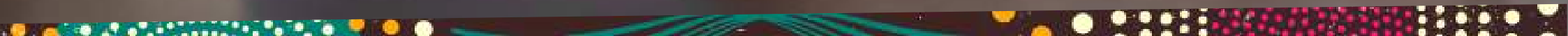
OUR STORIES

In Education

Genesis' Journey from Conflict to Hope

Genesis, is a boy from Northern Uganda, who had a very difficult start in life. He was born in the bush during the civil war that ravaged the country for over 20 years. His father was abducted into the rebel movement of the Lord's Resistance Army as a child soldier when he was only 13 years old, and his mother's whereabouts were unknown. For many years, Genesis lived with his dad in the bush, without any social network or support. Fortunately, one day Genesis was discovered by an organization dealing with refugees. He was taken in by the St. Jude Welcoming House (ELI) in 2015, where he received much needed care and support. However, life was still challenging for Genesis, as he was deaf. Genesis was able to attend nursery school and gradually move up to Primary Four class. He was provided with the resources needed to attend school in Gulu and receive an education that would help him build a better future. Genesis made remarkable progress. In 2018, Genesis was enrolled at the Uganda School for the Deaf in Kampala, where he learned sign language. This was a turning point in his life, as he was finally able to communicate and express himself through the use of sign language.

He has become an active boy who loves playing football, and most importantly, he is a happy child again. It took social workers more than three years to find Genesis' relatives, who were later identified as his paternal grandparents and now he has a family, Genesis' success story was made possible by the support he received, providing access to education and support which helped him escape the cycle of poverty and build a better future for himself and his community. Genesis's story is a powerful testament to the transformative impact that education and support can have on the lives of vulnerable children. With continued support, the DSP continues to make a difference in the lives of children like Genesis.



In Health



A tale of amazements from Uganda's rural women and how they manoeuvre through childbirth

Life has a way of surprising us when we least expect it, presenting challenges that test our strength and resilience. For Jane, a courageous woman who found herself in the midst of a daunting situation brought by her pregnancy, it was AVSI Foundation's District Health System Strengthening on Integrated Reproductive Maternal New-born Child Adolescent Health, HIV and Nutrition services in West Nile, Lamwo and Kiryandongo project that provided the lifeline she desperately needed. Jane's incredible success story is a testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and the unwavering dedication of the vividly rooted health services in her village.

It began when Jane was in her home, unexpectedly experiencing the early pangs of labor. Having attended only one antenatal visit, she was unprepared for what lay ahead. She got

anxious about the unusual size of her belly, and she quickly sought the assistance of midwives, who recognized the urgency that her situation required. She was referred to Moyo Hospital, 30 kilometres away from her home on a bumpy murram road, where the medical team would provide the necessary care in her active state of labor. Under the skilled hands of the midwives, Jane successfully delivered two healthy babies. However, her joy was short-lived as the arrival of the third baby proved to be a challenging ordeal. The baby struggled to emerge, and when it finally did, it appeared lifeless. Panic set in, but one resolute midwife said no to giving up the struggle. With remarkable determination and skill, she resuscitated the baby, breathing life back into the little, fragile form.

The journey to recovery had just begun for Jane's baby. All three infants were placed on oxygen since they required additional support to stabilize their fragile health. It was through the invaluable assistance of C-pap machines that the babies were revived and given a fighting chance at life. These lifesaving machines were made possible through the support and collaboration of partners like AVSI Foundation with funding from SIDA through UNICEF, whose unwavering commitment to the cause provides hope for countless families such as Jane's. With the incubator in place, the baby's condition steadily improved, gaining the appropriate weight from 400 grams to a healthy 900 grams within a month.

In this tale of triumph, the role of family support cannot be overlooked. Jane's husband, engaged by Dr. Christopher Wasswa, became an unwavering pillar of strength and support for his wife. His presence and dedication throughout the difficult journey played a pivotal role in Jane's recovery and the well-being of their precious babies.

The program extended beyond the provision of equipment. Recognizing the importance of the ongoing education and mentorship, AVSI provided on-site mentorship training to the hospital staff, focusing on patient follow-ups and improving quality of care in the interest of mothers and babies. Additionally, a WhatsApp group was created to facilitate the effective communication and collaboration among doctors in Moyo Hospital, an innovation that strengthened the network of medical professionals, enabling them to share knowledge, seek advice, and provide comprehensive care to people such as like Jane in need of medical assistance.

In Special Needs



Before October 9th 2003, Richard Ongom was living a relatively happy life in his village in Bung Imalo where he was a successful business man. It never crossed his mind that he would lose his limb. "I was a fish monger and was riding bicycle carrying fish together with seven other friends on our way to a weekly market in another village when I heard a loud blast and the next thing I woke up in a hospital ward in a lot of pain – with blood all over my body and I was surrounded by unfamiliar faces" recalls a now smiling Richard.

Richard was hit by landmine on that day together with seven other men who were riding along a foot path. The first rider lost his instantly, the second man died in hospital and Richard who was third in line lost his right leg. The rest of the men as well got injuries from the splinters. During Richard's stay in hospital to nurse the wound from amputation and to receive rehabilitation, his children all dropped out of school. Affording food was difficult since Richard couldn't carry himself.

He felt hopeless and as he says "my mind kept replaying the landmine incident and at night fear engulfed me due to the constant nightmares." He was withdrawn from people and secluded himself until he got in touch with the AVSI Foundation social worker in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital where he was recuperating.

Richard was closely engaged for counselling by a social worker assigned to him. He spoke about his traumatic experience and he received an artificial limb. "I no longer feel worried and the hallucinations are no more - the artificial leg is my friend and supports me to move and encourage other persons living with a disability that there's a chance to regained hope." Richard now practices peasant farming and is able to provide for his family. He was elected by the community members in his sub-county as leader of a group of landmine survivors, a responsibility he conducts with passion.

With 16 other war victims in his community, all of whom have benefitted from The Trust Fund for Victims support, the group planted rice on a one-acre land from which they expect a bumper harvest to improve their livelihood. The group also organized themselves in a Village Saving and Loans Association where they meet weekly to save and borrow cash for investments. Richard can now afford school fees for his children, rears goats and chicken, and is happy to live a decent life with his artificial limbs that he is proud of showing to anyone he meets.



In Livelihoods



The narrative of Evas Tusingwire and Ives Kamukama in Rwomuriro Village, Kamwenge District depicts how they transitioned from living in extreme poverty to becoming agents of their household's financial growth through newly acquired skills. The couple had previously adhered to traditional values, with Ives shouldering the responsibility of providing for the family while Evas remained at home, caring for their children. Their lives took a turn when they encountered numerous difficulties when their children falling ill due to common sicknesses such as malaria, malnutrition and diarrhea, and the unaffordable medical expenses drained their already difficult financial condition. Ives' earnings from his construction work were a paltry.

In trying to improve their situation, Ives used local materials to improve their house but still found it hard to succeed since he couldn't afford any extra construction materials at a cost. "In the past, I believed it was my duty to provide for the family and that Evas needed to concentrate on caring for our children; but, when I witnessed the change in Evas after she had learnt how to weave and knit cloth - a new skill, I was thrilled about her ability make some money." In 2022, Ives and Evas enrolled in the USAID-funded Graduating to Resilience Activity which seeks to uplift vulnerable households from food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance and resilience. As part of the program, they were paired with a community-based trainer and coach from AVSI Foundation. "Ives and Evas embraced the opportunity to participate in the Graduating to Resilience Activity with enthusiasm and dedication," Anatoli Kiiza, their community-based trainer observes. "They were eager to learn and established goals to change their lives – they just wanted change."



Through coaching sessions, Evas discovered she could contribute to the family's economic growth by engaging in an income-generating activity. She recognized the value of acquiring a skill that would provide a reliable source of income, at least one like her husband's work in the construction of houses. "I realized that I can do more for our family than merely look after our children and tend our garden," Evas explains. "Learning a skill and starting to earn money was an empowering revelation." In February 2023, the Activity introduced a unique component, the earn-as-you-learn approach. Participants were required to pay a fee to an artisan within the village and learn a skill of their choice. This opportunity appealed to Evas and she decided to pursue tailoring. "This was a new feeling that never crossed my mind. I informed my husband that I needed to take tailoring classes and he immediately encouraged me to start the lessons."

Under the guidance of Sylvia Katusiime, a successful graduate of the program, Evas commenced her tailoring training on November 9, 2022 and in just six months, she had mastered the art of producing a range of fashionable garments which earned her a minimum monthly profit of Ugandan Shillings 60,000. "I have seen many couples in our village disagree simply because the woman wants to learn a new skill. When a husband is not okay with the wife's step toward learning, no matter how much effort I place in training them, there will be frustration, and the learning will not be effective at all," says Sylvia. "But with Evas this was not the case. She has always enjoyed her husband's support which made it convenient for me to train her," Sylvia continues to say. The USAID Activity encourages households to collaborate and implement joint decision-making and empowers women to participate in economic activities to foster resilience. Currently, Ives and Evas are also involved in goat rearing for multiplication and sale with plans to use the proceeds to purchase a sewing machine for Evas' dressmaking business. Ives affirms that seeing his wife take charge of her life and learn a new skill fills him with immense pride and encourages them to work together to achieve their goals and secure a better future for their family as they celebrate their progress and stand united to expand their businesses, complete their house, and provide education for their three children. Their remarkable transformation demonstrates the power of setting bigger goals and working together to achieve them.

In Agriculture

My name is Roland Abaho. I am from Nyamarebe village in Ibanda District in Western Uganda. I enjoy waking up early morning to visit my farm as part of my daily activities because I love everything about farming; and that is why I tell people I am a proud farmer.

In 2015, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management and Community Development and worked in a bank in the Agriculture Department for five years when I came across an advertisement for the Skilling in Agripreneurship for increased Youth Employment (SAY) project of AVSI Foundation. I applied and was selected in September 2021. I received training for one month at IBO Mixed Farm, a partner of the SAY project funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Among the different skilling options, I chose to train as a plant doctor and picked interest in banana micropropagation and how to obtain clean banana plantlets. In Uganda's Western region where bananas are the predominant crop, I was certain that I was in the right position to take on the business and I decided to venture into plantain, commonly known as gonja due to its high demand. I started making good profits and I even employed more young people. Eventually, I resigned from my bank employment and specialized in farming since it was proving interesting and profitable by the day.

My husband and I now own a company, Jayrows Innovations Farm Ltd, with two outlets in Ibanda and the other in Kamwenge District where we offer services such as banana micropropagation, extension services, backyard gardening, and plant clinic services. We also add value to plantain to produce wine, crisps, and flour. We employ over 30 youth, both on a permanent and contract basis. We apply organic fertilizers on the farm, and our greenhouse is another way we ensure climate-smart approaches are adopted to preserve the environment.

In 2022, we participated in the Agribusiness Challenge Fund and emerged overall winner for the Western region. We received UGX 10 million which we utilized to expand our business by constructing the greenhouse for banana micropropagation. Additionally, we purchased land to expand our operations. We have experienced financial growth and an increase in our human resources. We aim at becoming the leading producer of gonja products in Uganda in the future and an expert skilling center for youth and women in Uganda. Our dream is to share the story we got from the SAY Project with as many young people as we can so that they can live their dreams in agriculture.

Roland is one of the 18,800 youth skilled in the SAY Project and are gainfully employed in the agriculture sector.



LINKS TO MEDIA PUBLICATION

- [Literacy Day Web Publication](#)
- [Spina Bifida New Vision Publication](#)
- [Skilling in Agripreneurship New Vision Publications](#)
- [Graduating to Resilience: Consumption Support](#)
- [Sustainable Market Inclusive Livelihood Pathways to Self-Reliance \(SMILES\)](#)
- [Climate Smart Agriculture](#)
- [Game Connect Sports Gala](#)
- [EnCOMi Publication](#)

ALL THIS TOWARDS:



OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS





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