

ACTION ON POVERTY

ANNUAL REVIEW

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ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

*Building a Brighter Future,
Together*

Welcome to our 2023 Annual Review! This year, we've witnessed incredible progress in our mission. Through your support, we've empowered communities in East and West Africa to address barriers to safe and lasting work, hunger, and injustice.

This report highlights the stories of our projects and the people they impact. We'll showcase achievements in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Kenya, demonstrating the power of community-led development.

We are proud to say that **we believe in the inherent potential of every person**. Witnessing individuals build thriving businesses and families filled with hope is a testament to the power of our approach in enabling sustainable livelihoods.

Mission



Is to work with people in East and West Africa to address barriers to safe and lasting work, hunger and injustice.

Vision



Is a world where everyone can work with pride for a better future.





Reflections from our CEO, Alex Daniels

Why Action on Poverty's Approach Works

Amidst severe global challenges this year we have been incredibly proud of the work we do with our partners. The impact is visible, transformational on people's lives and there for the long term.

Action on Poverty was originally established as APT Design and Development in 1984, when we used to design and train people to manufacture small scale tools and equipment. We have listened to what people told us they needed and 40 years later we still have enterprise, employment and incomes at the core of our work, making sure we include everyone and leave no-one behind.

When I think about why our approach works today there are numerous aspects which are important, including a focus on sustainability of the impact, no waste, getting the funds to where it's needed and transparency, but there are three key areas which define us:

Being led by our partners with the actions driven by the communities we work with – whether in communities and stakeholders in a camel milk value chain across a large geographical area or in remote rural communities of Sierra Leone.

Being inclusive of different groups of marginalised people – such as widows, young mothers, or other young people, people with disabilities or those living in fragile environments; and supporting them to tackle the inequalities they face and living their lives to the full.

Lastly, but not least,

Supporting livelihood development – including enterprise and employment – enabling people to feed and care for their families, and make sure their children are educated.

The synergy obtained by people addressing their practical needs together with access to their basic rights and being empowered to act as community change makers enables the development of forces for deeper and wider change. This is repeatedly reflected by the people we work with, valuing their increased status, dignity and say in household, community and local government decisions alongside their increased incomes and having their children at school; and by external evaluators who observe great impact as a consequence.

The approach is apparent in the three new exciting projects we started this year:

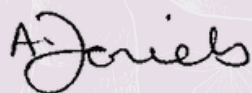
- Working with communities to strengthen livelihoods and inclusive governance in Sierra Leone. This is led by our partner MAPCO while Action on Poverty provides technical and monitoring support.
- Empowering women in refugee and host communities with our partner VEDCO on climate sensitive vegetable growing in Northern Uganda
- Working with PLA on extending the work on child labour in Uganda, addressing both poverty and the understanding of carers, employers and duty bearers

Next year we will take these projects forward to contribute to our five year goal of reaching 100,000 people in the year; and hope to find funding for new work with young people and to respond to the increasing demand for environmental protection and mitigation of climate change.

My heartfelt appreciation to all those who have supported us. We really couldn't do it without you and often your contributions unlock further funding by matching other grants – sometimes four times the amount of donations.

Please do continue to be part of the change and a new start for many more people.

Best Wishes



Alex Daniels
CEO Action on Poverty



SIERRA LEONE: BUILDING HOPE

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST CHILD LABOUR



**We've successfully removed children from dangerous work
and improved school attendance.**

70%

Children are reporting
no longer being
engaged in child labour.

1873

People in 40 communities
have been given training on
child human rights, and the
dangers of child labour

1050

Adults are being taught
functional literacy and
numeracy, some of them
being able to write their
names for the first time.

Parents and community leaders now champion child rights, protecting children from exploitation. Additionally, families are receiving training in agriculture and income-generating activities, building sustainable livelihoods and reducing reliance on child labour. These efforts have improved food security, educational opportunities, and wellbeing for countless children.

MARIAMA: FROM STRUGGLING TRADER TO SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN



Before joining the CBO, I struggled with a small trading business...After receiving training and loan support, my business is growing and I can now repay my loan.

- Mariama



She lives in Kutorma Mano community, Mariama is 27 year old mother of 2 who joined Kortuma Development Association, a CBO/SHFs facilitated by MAPCO and Goldtree since the inception of the project in November, 2022. Her business capital has gradually increased from very low to moderate.

UGANDA: TRANSFORMING LIVES

ERADICATING CHILD LABOUR IN KAMPALA & BUSOGA



We've successfully removed children from dangerous work and improved school attendance.

10,857

people from low-income families acquired livelihood skills to increase resilience in the face of recruitment to child labour

1,001

Children, previously involved in or at risk of child labour, started school or vocational training

62,000

People have received direct support to combat child labour, through outreach activities by community champions

The project exceeded its targets in terms of improved social protection for targeted child labourers and their families. Parents now have the resources and support to ensure their children receive an education and build a brighter future.



Women Market Vendors, empowering women to take up leadership roles

REHEMA, MEMBER OF NAMWIWA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



From this project I learnt to be bold and confident. Previously, I never spoke at council meetings even though I was a leader. Now I feel free to share my opinions, to consult with other women and to bring their ideas to the meetings said Rehema



Rehema's story is a powerful example of the positive impact that projects like the Civil Participation project can have on women's lives. The General Objective of the project is to increase the civic and political participation of women market vendors in Kaliro and Lira districts in Uganda. This has been achieved through training women in leadership and communication skills, as well as providing them with education in financial literacy and record-keeping.

Through these efforts, Rehema was able to transform her life and become a successful entrepreneur and community leader.

Her income increased, allowing her to better provide for her family and contribute to her community. Additionally, she started a women's savings group to help other women access finances and improve their economic situation. With her newfound confidence and knowledge, Rehema is now part of the women's council and has aspirations to one day join the Parliament.

Today, Rehema leads a thriving women's savings group, empowering others to achieve financial independence. Her active participation in the women's council is shaping a brighter future for countless women in Uganda.

KENYA: THRIVING COMMUNITIES

CAMILI 3 : BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH CAMEL MILK

The project significantly boosted the camel milk industry in Garissa and Wajir counties, **surpassing initial targets**.

Incomes rose across the value chain, with key client categories experiencing a 900% increase during the wet season. Households reported improved food security, consuming a greater variety of foods.

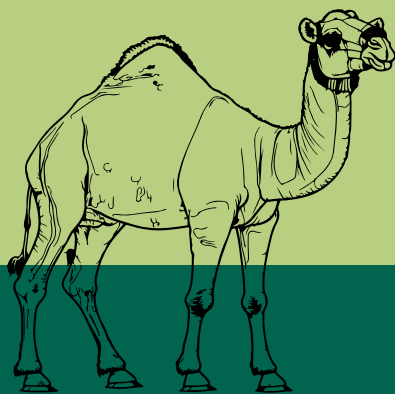
Resilience was strengthened through better veterinary services, reduced camel diseases, improved water management, and renovated infrastructure. Working conditions for women traders notably improved, and milk volumes increased dramatically, indicating a thriving market and greater participation.



474 Milk Transporters
Initial target: **100**

37% FEMALE

1801 Camel Herders
Initial target: **1500**



2755 Milk Traders
Initial target: **2400**

99.9% FEMALE

2023 AT A GLANCE

10,595
PEOPLE WITH
LIVEHOODS
IMPROVED

85%
ARE
WOMEN

**WE WORKED WITH 5
LOCAL PARTNERS**



34,122

The number of individuals directly supported to acquire skills, enabling them to secure sufficient food, medicine, and education for themselves and their children.

88,500

**PEOPLE INDIRECTLY
BENEFITED FROM
INCREASED
AWARENESS AND
EMPOWERMENT**

95

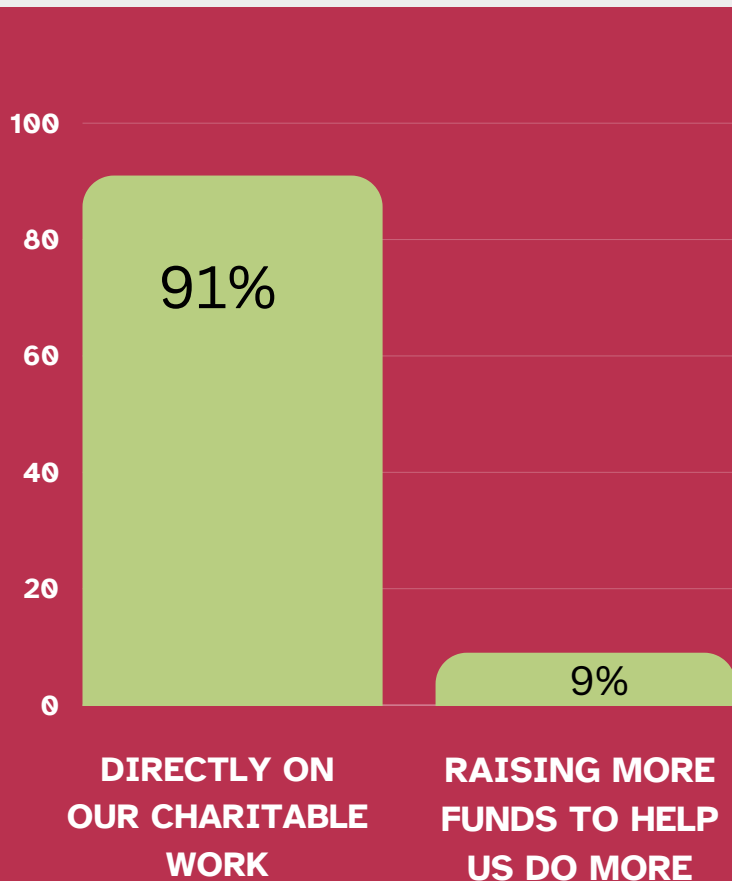
Grassroots organisations equipped to transform their communities with our support.



FINANCE 2023



HOW WE USED YOUR DONATIONS:



TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

3.3%

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS AND DONATIONS

9%

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

87.7%

TO ALL OUR DONORS

THANK

YOU

The Big Give Christmas campaign raised £9,008, providing funds for projects in Uganda and Sierra Leone.



THE DULVERTON TRUST



- Oakdale Trust
- Netherlands Enterprise Agency
- The Austin Bailey Foundation
- The Dorfred Charitable Trust
- Guernsey Overseas Aid
- The Stafford Trust
- Pat Newman Memorial Trust
- Sense Trust Belgium
- The Dennis Alan Yardy Charitable Trust
- IMI plc
- The Alchemy Foundation
- The Morel Trust
- Marsh Charitable Trust
- EA Foundation
- Fairbridge Trust
- William Leech Charity
- The Hudson Charitable Trust
- The Grace Trust
- The Rest-Harrow Trust



DONATE a MONTHLY gift



£75

**Could set up 20 refugees
women farmers in a
community loan group to
invest in their businesses
and lead their families out
of poverty**



£20

**Could train 2 women and
young people in Palabek in
climate-smart agriculture,
soil conservation, and
business skills**

In a world facing rising living costs, it's easy to feel powerless. But even amidst these challenges, you have the incredible power to change the lives of women, children, and refugees in West and East Africa.

Imagine the impact of a small, monthly donation – a ripple effect that empowers communities, transforms lives, and brings hope. While a single cup of coffee might not seem like much, but your consistent support can provide for families in need. You have the potential to be a changemaker.

Choose solidarity, choose impact – become a monthly donor today and be the reason someone's life is filled with possibility, not just surviving, but thriving.

WANT TO JOIN US ON A LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE?

Cycle across Uganda and raise life-changing funds for people living in extreme poverty.

Embark on a 9-day challenge: 6 days of cycling through the breathtaking landscapes, culminating in a visit to one of our projects. Your fundraising will **directly support** our vital programmes in East and West Africa.



READY TO PEDAL FOR A PURPOSE?

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW AND TRANSFORM LIVES!

email to: gladys.lasso@aptuk.org.uk

