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23

ANNUAL REPORT

Message from Founder & CEO Courtenay Cabot Venton

Since 2020, the Share Trust has been striving for a world where the most marginalized can actively shape their futures. The Share Trust's work was founded to support the global Self Help Group (SHG) movement, as SHGs are among the most effective, evidence-driven approaches to helping communities to thrive. Over the past three years, our mission has remained the same, but our strategies have evolved to focus on multiple pathways to accelerate the critical shifts of power, process, and funding required to realize the ultimate goal of communities designing and owning their own development solutions.



I am so proud of all that our team has accomplished in 2023. In this report, we share highlights of our progress across the three pillars of the Share Trust's work: SHGs, supporting local agencies through our Local Coalition Accelerator (LCA), and our Enabling Environment work.

(1) In the first section we highlight our work supporting SHGs in Afghanistan and Somalia.

(2) In the second section we highlight our LCA work in Uganda, Bangladesh, and Nigeria, where the coalitions collectively reached nearly 80,000 people directly with critical health, education, and livelihoods support.

(3) In the final section, we include some exciting developments generated by our flagship research study, *Passing the Buck: The Economics of Localizing International Aid*, which significantly influenced policy discussions in 2023, including multiple US Congressional testimonies, and House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings to understand how USAID plans to optimize resources to best meet local needs.

As we move forward into 2024, our collaborations with governments and international aid organizations continue to grow as some of the largest agencies seek our partnership and to research and implement cost-effective solutions to shift power, processes, and funding to local communities.

Thanks to your support, we have ignited the power of collective action, and in 2023 we have seen its impact. Through this community-driven collective approach in Africa and Asia, we are enabling shifts in power, process, and funding that are accelerating locally-led action, placing control in the hands of community members to create their own transformational change..

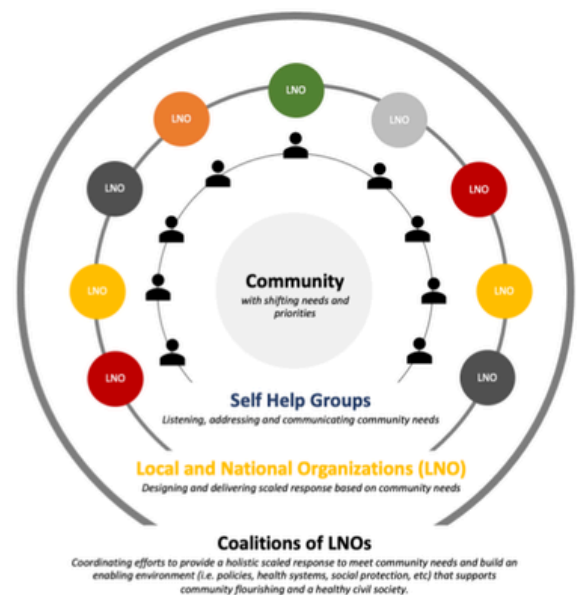
I invite you to read our 2023 Annual Report, learn about our progress, and immerse yourself in the transformative impact of community led work.

Thank you for your support,

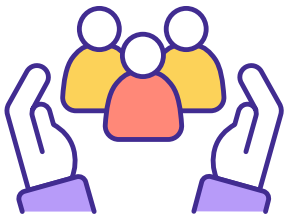
Courtenay Cabot Venton

HOW WE SHIFT POWER, PROCESS, AND FUNDING

The Share Trust targets an ecosystem-wide shift by working through three interdependent components to holistically shift power, process, and funding to support local communities.



SELF HELP GROUPS



SHGs are one of the most evidence-based approaches for community driven development. These groups of 10-25 people meet every week to save, start small businesses and support each other and effectively harness the transformative power of gathering to create extraordinary impact in their communities.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (LNOs)



Our [Local Coalition Accelerator \(LCA\) initiative](#) works with coalitions of LNOs to strengthen this aspect of the ecosystem. When [SHGs work in partnership with LNOs](#), this impact is amplified. Coordinated networks of LNOs that have SHGs at their core can then scale a response that embeds community priorities and accountability into program design and delivery. When all of this happens in an environment that enables locally driven initiatives to thrive, the effect on human outcomes is truly transformative.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT



Only a small fraction of aid makes it to local actors, with significant repercussions on the communities they serve. We aim to ensure that community driven collective action is at the center of international policy and practice by facilitating connections between stakeholders; building mechanisms to directly shift power and funding to local actors; advocating for changes in international processes and systems; and generating and synthesizing research and learning.

SELF HELP GROUPS

Transformative Community Change

SHGs are one of the most evidence-based approaches for community driven development. These groups of 10-25 people meet every week to save, start small businesses and support each other and effectively harness the transformative power of gathering to create extraordinary impact in their communities

In partnership with Tearfund, the Share Trust supports the Self Help Group (SHG) ecosystem globally in a holistic way that takes into account the systemic barriers and opportunities these groups face to more effectively scale community driven collective action.



PHOTO: A Self Help Group in Malawi conduct their regular weekly meeting, with a welcome to visitors from the Share Trust.

SELF HELP GROUPS

Focal Project: Afghanistan



PHOTO: Women in Afghanistan, part of an SHG, come together to support livestock and farming activities.

The Share Trust continued our collaboration with [Afghanaid](#) as a learning partner supporting Afghanaid's extensive SHG programming focused on addressing food insecurity, women's rights and the prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV). The Share Trust provides direct financial support to the SHGs and has been working closely with Afghanaid on strategic guidance, technical support and Measurement, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL). In 2023, the Taliban curtailed women's rights to work at local and international aid organizations, rendering informal local networks like SHGs more important than ever for distribution of services and support to women and girls. The final evaluation of the first phase of work in 2023 has shown significant results.

Afghanaid

For over 40 years, Afghanaid has worked in **31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces** to deliver livelihood support, strengthen the rights of women, protect communities against climate change, and deliver basic needs in hard to reach places.

KEY OUTCOMES

100%

of women reported improved wellbeing and mental health compared to 44% during baseline



96%

of women with decision-making power over their income rose to 96%, up from 14% at baseline, a rare shift in traditional Afghan households.



SELF HELP GROUPS

Focal Project: Somalia

The Share Trust is the lead innovation and learning partner for the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) - funded [BRCiS - Building Resilient Communities in Somalia](#) - consortium. BRCiS is a humanitarian initiative that takes a holistic approach to supporting Somali communities in developing their capacities to understand and manage hazards and shocks. The Share Trust is supporting the donor prime – the Norwegian Refugee Council - and a consortium of other INGOs with guidance on how to better integrate SHGs and Somali local and national organizations.



In 2022/23, BRCiS reached **246,500 households representing over 1.4M people** with integrated community resilience support, programming over \$27.4M from UK, USAID, and QFF.

KEY OUTCOMES



The Share Trust conducted a study on integrating Self Help Groups and Village Saving and Loan Associations into Somalia's protracted response, supported by comprehensive data collection from BRCiS partners and SHG leaders.



PHOTO: Participants at the BRCiS II workshop in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss integrating Self Help Groups (SHGs) into the protracted response efforts in Somalia.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Community Driven Collective Action

The Local Coalition Accelerator (LCA) is an initiative founded by the Share Trust and [Warande Advisory Centre](#) in 2020 with a goal of supporting Local and National Organizations (LNOs) to provide coordinated services to meet their communities' highest priorities. Coalitions range in size from 6-16+ organizations serving a common geographic area, who are providing a holistic set of services including health, education, livelihoods, and environmental protection and are designed to be inclusive of marginalized groups including refugees, persons living with disabilities (PLWD), ethnic and religious minorities, women, LGBTQI+, etc. LCA coalitions work with SHGs to ensure decision making and programming are grounded with the most marginalized by channeling and amplifying their voices to drive change.



PHOTO: Nigeria Local Coalition Accelerator (N-LCA) meets with women and girls in Adamawa State.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (LNOs)

The goals of the LCA are for the coalitions to be able to operate autonomously after a three to five year period, build strong governance, design and implement coordinated, community-centered programming, with capacity to directly accept donor funding.

In 2023, we supported three coalitions in Uganda, Bangladesh and Nigeria. These coalitions **represent 40 LNOs partners** and **over 700 SHG partners**. With the support of the Warande Advisory Centre in Africa, and START Network in Bangladesh, each coalition designed its own governance system, and collaboratively designed and implemented their “Joint Action Plans” (JAP) where they holistically coordinate services to their communities.

01 Uganda



LCA Uganda has 14 members responding to critical livelihood, education and health needs in the most marginalized areas of Kampala.

- [AFFCAD](#)
- [ACODEV](#)
- [CAPAIDS](#)
- [ESAU](#)
- [Girl Up Initiative Uganda](#)
- [REAL](#)
- [Street Business School \(SBS\)](#)
- [Hope Hub](#)
- [Kabubbu Development Project \(KDP\)](#)
- [Mukisa Foundation](#)
- [NUWODU](#)
- [RAHU](#)
- [Set Her Free](#)
- [Wezesha Impact](#)

02 Bangladesh



The Sundarban Coalition consists of 16 LNOs. In partnership with START Network, they build disaster resilient communities in the Sundarbans, a region particularly vulnerable to climate crises.

- [AVAS](#)
- [Coastal Education and Diversity Improvement Organization \(CEDIO\)](#)
- [Community-Based Development Project \(CBDP\)](#)
- [CNRS](#)
- [Dhulasar Upokul Sarbik Gram Unnyan Samabay Samiti L.T.D](#)
- [Mohila O Shishu Shongho](#)
- [Orarian Development Foundation \(ODF\)](#)
- [Golap Protibondhi Unnayan Songstha](#)
- [Isana Nari Foundation](#)
- [Jago Nari](#)
- [Patherkhali Miloni Jubo Shangho](#)
- [PRERONA](#)
- [Rakhain Social Development Organization \(RSDO\)](#)
- [Sheree Alternative Way of Women Empowerment](#)
- [Sundarban Adibashi Munda Sangstha \(SAMS\)](#)
- [Uttaran](#)

03 Nigeria

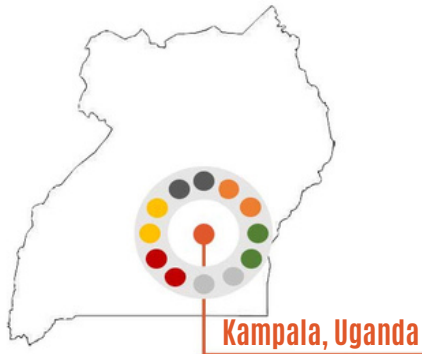


The Nigeria Coalition (N-LCA) consist of 9 local actors holistically addressing the effects of decades of active conflict in Adamawa, shifting power, process and funding.

- [Against All Odds Foundation \(AGAOF\)](#)
- [ADPLWDI](#)
- [Clear View Integrity Foundation \(CVIF\)](#)
- [DCR Ambassadors](#)
- [First Step Action for Children Initiative \(FSACI\)](#)
- [Horn of Hope \(HOHVIPAD\)](#)
- [LESGO](#)
- [Morning Star Foundation \(MSF\)](#)
- [Society for Women and Girl Child Empowerment \(SWOGE\)](#)

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (LNOs)

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



Livelihood support

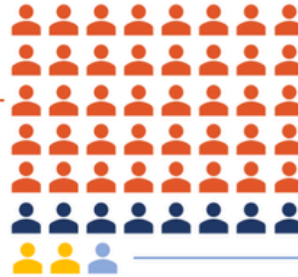
2,519 people

At least 77.7% of graduates launch at least one business and those who do report an average income increase of 42.3%

Child protection

1,876 people

A significant number of respondents feeling that their ability to manage child protection cases had improved



Education

2,302 people

Respondents were highly satisfied with the training on disability and project's impact on educational accessibility and inclusivity

Health

7,405 people

Substantial impact of the health messages on behavior and attitude change towards health services is encouraging

Sundarbans, Bangladesh



Climate resilient infrastructure

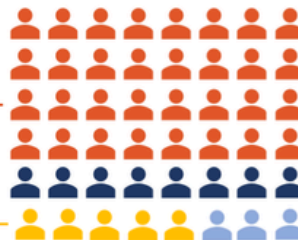
26,012 people

16 roads repaired, 11 bridges repaired, 4 bridges constructed, 2 embankments repaired and pond ghat constructed. Increased school attendance has resulted.

Livelihood support

4,030 people

369 marginalized people received \$76-96 USD equivalent for procuring assets and goods for livelihood support.



WASH

6,079 people

Tube wells, 18 latrines and assistive devices for persons living with disabilities.

SRHR campaign

665 people

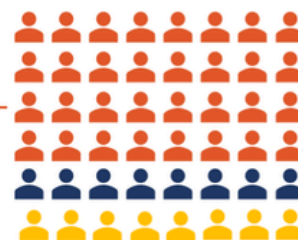
Advocacy event during International Women's Day 2023



Health

128,700 people

Enhance the quality and efficiencies of community health-care workers and conduct medical outreach to underserved populations



Climate change

45,888 people

Provide information on climate change and enhance community capacity to engage in adaptive and regenerative practices

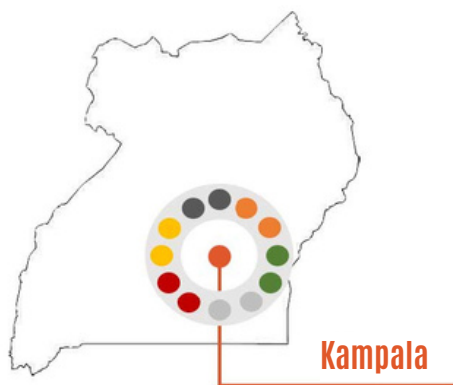
Education

6,360 people

Increase access to qualitative, protective and effective accelerated learning program (ALP) to out of school children

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (LNOs)

Uganda 2023 Impact



The vision of LCA Uganda is to work together to pilot and test coordinated, layered approaches to service delivery, develop a holistic systems-change strategy that will enable the coalition to create a new paradigm for sustainable, locally designed and locally led development, and position the group for sustainable bilateral financing.

Livelihood support

2,519 people

At least 77.7% of graduates launch at least one business and those who do report an average income increase of 42.3%

Child protection

1,876 people

A significant number of respondents feeling that their ability to manage child protection cases had improved

Education

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Substantial impact of the health messages on behavior and attitude change towards health services is encouraging

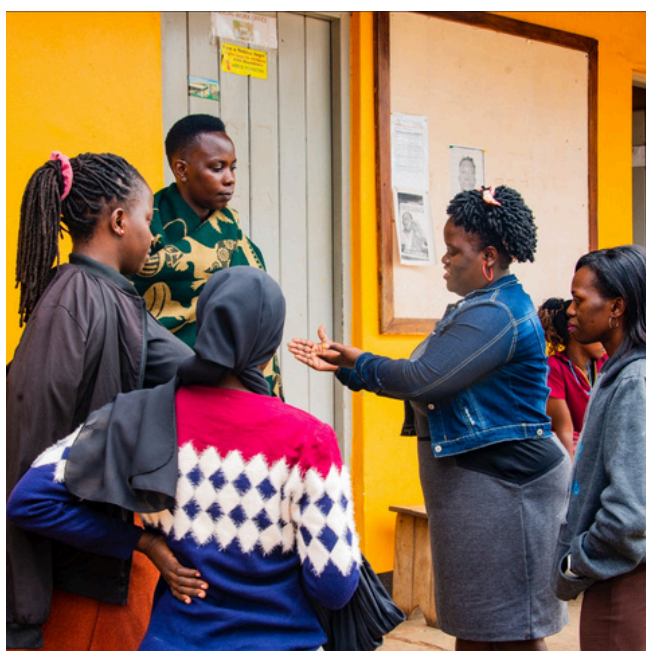
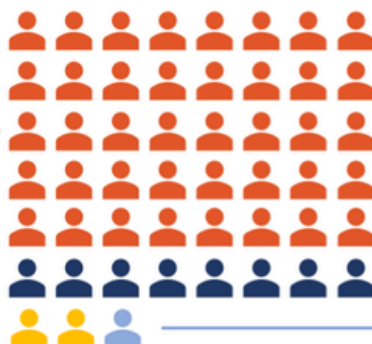


PHOTO: Financial training for four SHGs: Kwagalana, Family Craft, Grace group and Big Spenders (Hope Hub) by Uganda LCA.

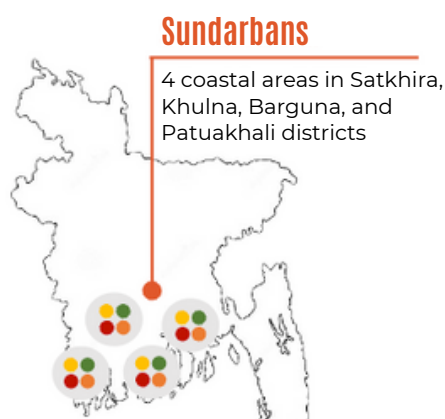


PATHWAY TO LOCALIZATION

The Uganda coalition has successfully registered as an independent legal entity and can now receive direct funding. Support for Uganda LCA will now be at their request and on their terms – representing a massive shift in power, process, and funding autonomy.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (LNOs)

Bangladesh 2023 Impact



The Sundarban Coalition is working across four coastal districts to support their communities to cope, adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, prioritizing after extensive community consultation the development of climate resilient infrastructure, long-term livelihoods and WASH and SRHR access.

This coalition is the result of a partnership between the LCA and the Start Fund Bangladesh, a local hub of the Start Network.

LCA Bangladesh reached 36,121 people in the Sundarbans.

Climate resilient infrastructure

26,012 people

16 roads repaired, 11 bridges repaired, 4 bridges constructed, 2 embankments repaired and pond ghat constructed. Increased school attendance has resulted.

Livelihood support

4,030 people

369 marginalized people received \$76-96 USD equivalent for procuring assets and goods for livelihood support.



WASH

6,079 people

Tube wells, 18 latrines and assistive devices for persons living with disabilities.

SRHR campaign

665 people

Advocacy event during International Women's Day 2023



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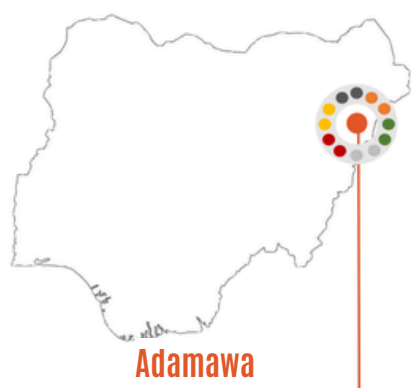


PATHWAY TO LOCALIZATION

*The Sundarban coalition has successfully embedded community input throughout their collective work, and are in the process of implementing activities from their second Joint Action Plan. In one region, the coalition found a **5x increase in school attendance**, due to improving infrastructure and bridge building, directly addressing needs of the community.*

LOCAL & NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (LNOs)

Nigeria 2023 Impact



Adamawa

4 local government areas: Gombe, Hong, Mubi and Michika

Local actors operating in Adamawa are working together to strengthen community resilience in the face of the persisting humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria. The 9 coalition members are addressing vulnerabilities around climate change and regional insecurity and serve a significant number of the hardest to reach and most marginalized populations such as internally displaced persons and persons living with disabilities.

Health

128,700 people

Enhance the quality and efficiencies of community health-care workers and conduct medical outreach to underserved populations



Climate change

45,888 people

Provide information on climate change and enhance community capacity to engage in adaptive and regenerative practices

Education

6,360 people

Increase access to qualitative, protective and effective accelerated learning program (ALP) to out of school children



PHOTO: N-LCA members meet with community members of Adamawa State to start their second round of Joint Action Planning



PATHWAY TO LOCALIZATION

In Nigeria, the coalition has secured \$500K in support from UNOCHA to conduct further community mapping and develop a locally driven joint crisis strategy for humanitarian crisis response, as well as significant capacity support and peer to peer learning, and advocacy work. This represents a direct capacity building investment in a coalition of local NGOs by UNOCHA. A matching \$500K grant from Vitol Foundation will unlock this funding.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Building Our Evidence Base

In 2023, The Share Trust continued to work with bilateral and philanthropic donors, helping to develop strategies that would allow for their practices to be more conducive to local actors. Through conducting rigorous research and evidence, we have been able to contribute to the field of knowledge around the effectiveness of working through local actors. We have been able to proactively engage with donors with the aim of shifting power and funding directly to local actors, advocating for systemic changes at the donor, government, UN, and INGO levels to improve accessibility, transparency, and accountability.

Passing the Buck



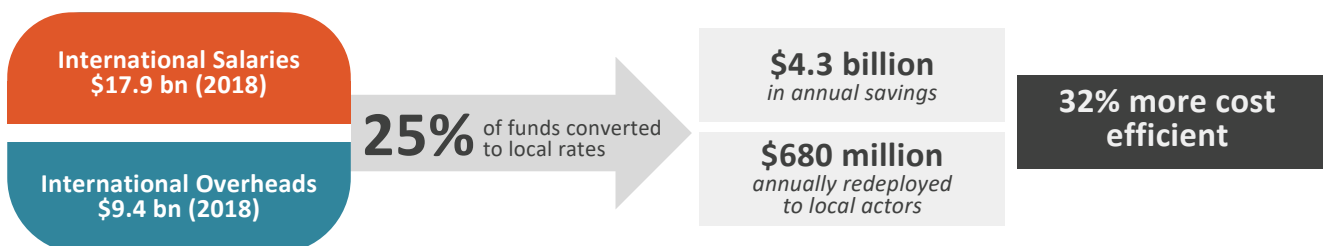
NOVEMBER 2022

PASSING THE BUCK

The Economics of Localizing
International Assistance

- In late 2022, we released “**Passing the Buck: The Economics of Localizing International Aid**” developed in consultation with Global Majority leaders, bilaterals, INGO/UN, and others, that estimates that local intermediaries could deliver programming that is 32% more cost efficient than traditional UN and INGO models. Based on the success and wide circulation of PtB, The Share Trust has been documenting examples of local intermediary structures around the world that funders should consider to accelerate localization.

In 2024, The Share Trust continued their evaluation of the cost efficiencies of delivering aid through local intermediaries in four other countries and found consistent cost efficiencies ranging from 14-19% across all four countries.





PHOTOS: Coalitions gather for their first-ever transboundary coalition gathering, where they share successes, challenges, and build community on the power of collective action.



PHOTOS: An SHG in Bangladesh, part of the Sundarban Coalition, runs a meeting (LEFT). Urban refugee SHG starting their soap making business (REAL) in Uganda (RIGHT).



PHOTOS: Community and women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) meet in Uganda (LEFT), and Afghanistan (RIGHT).

Annual Report Financials - Fiscal Year 2023

The Share Trust

AUDITED FINANCIALS

Jan - Dec 2023

Beginning Net Assets **\$2,872,466**

REVENUE

Grants	\$1,040,718
Donations	\$275,092
Service Fees	\$215,162
Investment Income	\$19,971

Total Revenue **\$1,550,943**

EXPENDITURES

Program Services	\$1,990,450
Fundraising	\$200,588
Administrative	\$149,399

Total Expenditures **\$2,340,437**

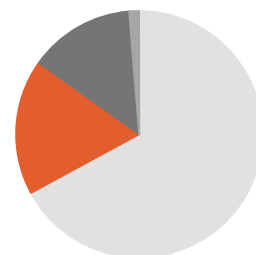
Ending Net Assets **\$2,082,972**

BALANCE SHEET

Net Assets	\$2,082,972
Liabilities	\$94,246

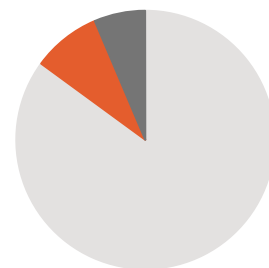
Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$2,177,218**

REVENUE



- Grants \$1,040,718 (67.1%)
- Donations \$275,092 (17.7%)
- Service Fees \$215,162 (13.9%)
- Investment Income \$19,971 (1.3%)

EXPENDITURES



- Program Services \$1,990,450 (85.0%)
- Fundraising \$200,588 (8.6%)
- Administrative \$149,399 (6.4%)

Notes:

- Beginning Net Assets include multi-year grants whose revenue was recognized prior to 2023 but intended to be spent in 2023.
- Total net assets of \$4,423,409 were available in 2023 of which \$2,340,437 were expended.
- The 2023 cash balance started with \$1,594,230 and ended with \$992,140.

Funding Partners

- The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
- Target Foundation
- The Skoll Foundation
- Pilot House Philanthropies
- The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust
- Imago Dei Fund
- Chandler Foundation
- Vitol Foundation

Strategic Partners

- Warande Advisory Centre
- The Start Network
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- Tear Fund
- Promoting Local Response Capacity and Partnership (PLRCAP)
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- CARE International
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Social Fund for Development (SFD) in Yemen
- DAI
- AfghanAid
- Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Development Commission (EKHDC)

We thank you
for your continued
support in our
efforts in shifting
power, process, and
funding.

Board of Directors

- Dr. Marcy Kerr Yuknat
- Grace Johnson Garrity
- Dr. Brooke Bailey
- Fanta Toure-Puri
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