



**LAHU**  
LEND A HAND UGANDA USA

**2023**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDER

Lend a Hand Uganda's (LAHU's) goal of assisting vulnerable children to achieve their full potential made good progress in the last year.

2023 was a recovery period post COVID-19. We managed to achieve most of our set objectives. There was an impact to our meager resources as a result of losing some donors related to the anti-homosexual law bill yet to be signed by the government of Uganda.

Still LAHU continuously feeds 81 children under the lunch program together with over 10 teachers through the year, with some turnover and over 30 children leaving the program as their families looked for additional opportunities and safety in other communities

Twenty parents continue to participate in the farming to grow food for the lunch program. The locally grown food include; maize, sweet potatoes, beans, greens, cassava, bananas, and fruits. We have been able to supplement our crops by buying posho to facilitate a successful implementation of the lunch program throughout 2023. The year ahead requires additional participants for the program to be successful.

The team on the ground is excited to enroll new students and parents in the coming school year.

**HARRIET ZAFFONI**  
FOUNDER



**70% of  
all funds  
raised go  
directly to  
Uganda,  
with 58%  
of funds  
directly  
aimed at  
impacting  
our  
programs**

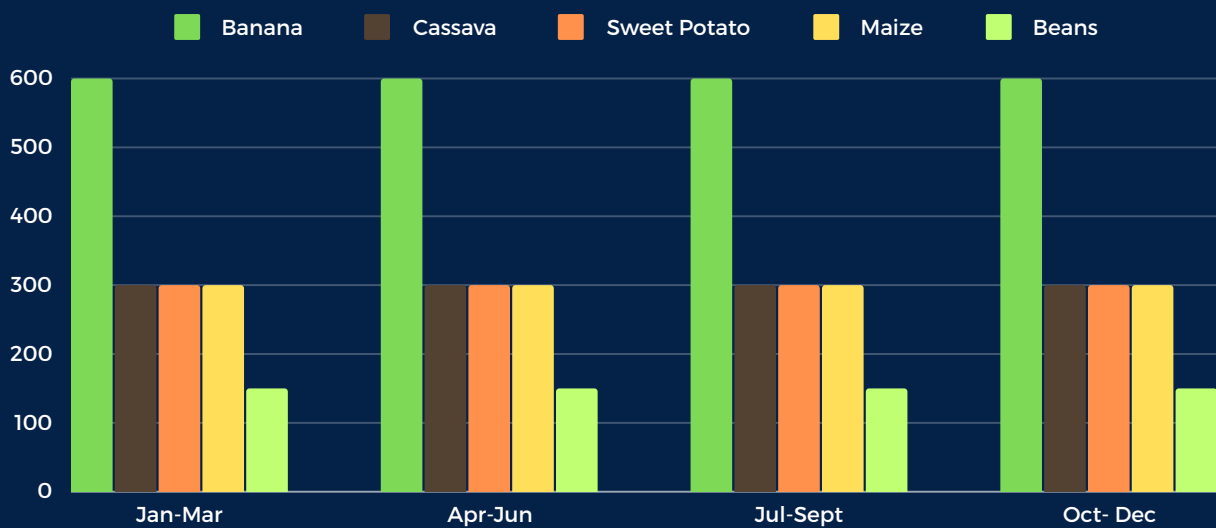
# 2023 FINANCIALS

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Donations Received | \$ 42,480.96       |
| Event Expenses           | \$ 9,894.93        |
| Administrative Expenses  |                    |
| US Admin Expenses        | \$ 2,431.19        |
| Uganda Office            | <u>\$ 5,647.80</u> |
|                          | \$ 8,078.99        |
| Direct Program Funding   |                    |
| Lunch Program            | \$ 6,256.62        |
| Farming Project          | \$ 10,438.61       |
| Uganda Staff             | <u>\$ 8,005.16</u> |
|                          | \$ 24,700.39       |
| Total Expenses in 2023   | \$ 42,674.31       |
| Net Profit / (Loss)      | \$ (193.35)        |

# CROP PRODUCTION FOR 2023

LAHU FARM PRODUCED ENOUGH TO FEED 81 CHILDREN IN 2023

BETTER QUANTITIES WERE ACHIEVED DUE TO GOOD WEATHER



Amount of food in kilograms distributed to Mwererwe CoU Primary school for the lunch program during each quarter in 2023.

LAHU continued to deliver food to children at home over the holidays when schools were closed.

## Outcomes of the lunch program:

1. Daily attendance on each school day
2. Improved child concentration in afternoon classes
3. Improved nutrition and health
4. Increased child wellness/happiness
5. Improved academic performance
6. Increased child retention in school
7. Attraction of new entrants/learners to Mwererwe school

# CREATING A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO)

LAHU has collaborated with the Mwererwe community for multiple years, dedicating all efforts to uplift underprivileged households and improve their living standards. This involved implementing community empowerment initiatives like agricultural and skills training programs. In a bid to boost self-reliance and productivity, LAHU supported the formation of an inclusive community-based organization (CBO).

The community members crafted their own constitution to guide operations. Nineteen (19) members have enrolled so far, with more anticipated to join. LAHU is hopeful that the new structure of this CBO will attract support from government programs such as PDM, Emyoga, Youth funds, and other organizations focused on community empowerment.

LAHU sees the registration of the CBO as a significant step forward. LAHU will persist in seeking logistical support to secure funding for the sustainability of the Mwererwe CBO. The program team will conduct regular training and capacity-building sessions for both the leadership and members, and external expertise will be engaged as necessary to establish a strong foundation for the CBO.





# Annual Holiday Gifting

On an annual basis, LAHU celebrates a holiday gifting event to share some gifts with the children and their families. Every year is planned differently based on the available funds and sponsorships.

This year's activity took place on December 21, 2023, for all 51 sponsored children with their families attended, including teachers and the PTA.

LAHU shared a special meal with the guests as each child received a hamper comprised of pencils, notebooks, and other small school supplies.

This year, we fed over 200 children during the holiday gifting activity and each family took home a basket of grilled chicken! This came as a surprise because we operated at a minimal budget compared to the years before!

The event was more meaningful and successful with the attendance by LAHU founder, Harriet Zaffoni

# Challenges Faced

## **Weather:**

In 2023, abundant rainfall was experienced across various regions of the country. While beneficial for Most crop cultivation, the excessive rains negatively impacted our beans, leading to significant decreases in harvests.

## **Donors:**

LAHU faced a decline in donor support following the enactment of an LGBT law by the Ugandan government. This resulted in the withdrawal of some donors. By the end of 2023, extensive adjustments were made in administrative logistics, including staff salaries, project progress tracking, and monitoring to deliver programs under a revised budget.

## **Enrollment:**

Despite high interest from numerous families to enroll in LAHU's programs, insufficient funding hindered the organization's capacity to accommodate them. To ensure continuity of project advancements, the directors are exploring alternative methods to secure resources.

## **Theft:**

Our farm encountered theft incidents where intruders not only stole crops like bananas but also banana suckers. To address this challenge, a new sturdy metal gate was installed to deter unauthorized access to the farm.

# Achievements and Impact

## **Lunch Program:**

Since its launch in 2017, the lunch program at LAHU has shown remarkable improvement. The school has experienced increased student enrollment, higher attendance rates for afternoon classes, enhanced health, and notably improved academic performance. In 2021, the school had 36 students passing grades A - C in PLE, and by 2022, this number stayed the same however, we had more students in Grade A vs the year before. And in 2023 we had 35 Students. This initiative aims to help vulnerable children reach their full potential.

## **Library:**

After the establishment and stocking of the library with a diverse range of reading materials, there has been a noticeable improvement in reading and learning among students. Teachers now have access to reference books to aid their teaching, leading to long-term benefits such as improved cognitive abilities among learners due to the availability of reading resources.

## **Farming Program:**

One of our significant achievements has been the farming program, where parents contribute labor twice a week to grow food for the lunch program. These parents have embraced better farming techniques through the guidance of a trained agronomist employed by LAHU. The acquired farming knowledge is expected to have a lasting impact, as parents can apply these skills to cultivate food in their backyard gardens.



# A LOOK AHEAD TO 2024

As we look to the future, the team is excited for our future projects:

1) Water Project: Partner with SOURCE to install hydropanels to produce clean drinking water at the school and the surrounding community.

\$100,000 USD

2) Capital Improvement: Construction of a new food storage shed at the farm as the old one was damaged and washed away by rain.

\$10,000 USD

3) Other Activities: Adding furniture and windows in our library, farm sustainability projects to generate surplus to sell to the market and create revenue.

\$5,000 - \$50,000 USD