



AFRICA SHADES OF LIGHT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
- Coretta Scott King

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful to God and to every partner who has walked with Africa Shades of Light.

Through education, disability care, youth mentorship, skills training, and expanding access to safe water, we have seen lives restored and hope renewed as we choose to walk closely with communities and respond to real adversities with compassion and faith.

This work is anchored in Matthew 5:16 which says, *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

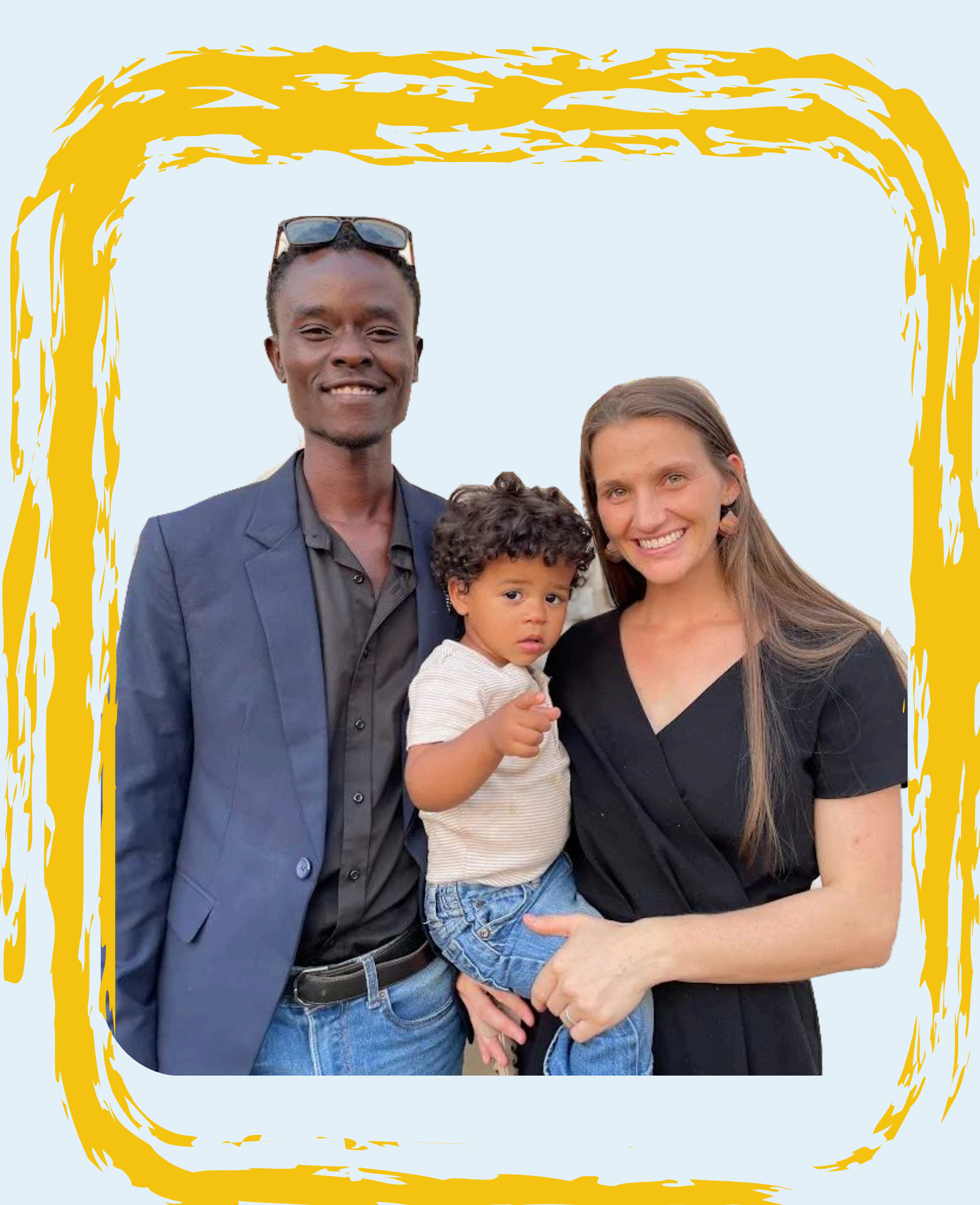
We are encouraged by the faithfulness of our board, volunteers, prayer partners, and donors who have made it possible to reflect Christ's light in tangible, meaningful ways.

Thank you for believing in this mission and sending us to shine brightly. As we look ahead, we remain committed to creating more inclusive spaces and continuing to be the light in the communities God has entrusted to us.

With gratitude,



Akram, Nicole & Uriah Katongole



OUR VISION

Our long term vision is to make disciples of Jesus to restore eternal hope in the lives and hearts of people for generations.

OUR MISSION

Our daily mission is to address adversity through ethical, collaborative, and sustainable action to empower underserved communities, families, and children to reach their God-given potential.

CORE VALUES

Collaboration. Reconciliation. Integrity.
Sustainability. Hope.

OUR WHY

We exist because real adversity continues to shape the lives of children, youth, and families in vulnerable communities and because people matter more than programs.

We prioritize the people we serve, walking with them through relationship, presence, and care. As we seek to be the light and a shade of refuge, we create intentional, inclusive, faith-centered spaces that restore dignity, nurture God-given potential, and offer hope.

We believe lasting transformation happens when communities are seen, heard, and empowered through consistent love and community-led solutions that break cycles of poverty and point lives toward Christ



OUR APPROACH



INTEGRATE

We begin with presence. By intentionally entering remote and underserved communities, we position ourselves alongside those with limited access to resources, building trust through consistency and proximity.



CONNECT

We cultivate meaningful relationships rooted in respect and collaboration. Through intentional engagement with local leaders and families, we ensure our work is ethical, community-led, and sustainable.



ASSESS

Together with community partners, we identify real needs and priorities. This collaborative evaluation ensures that every initiative is relevant, appropriate, and grounded in lived realities.



EMPOWER

We strengthen communities by addressing practical challenges, supporting holistic development, and fostering long-term resilience. The Gospel of Jesus Christ remains the foundation of our mission, guiding our service with compassion, dignity, and hope.



OUR MODEL



COMMUNITY SPECIFIED

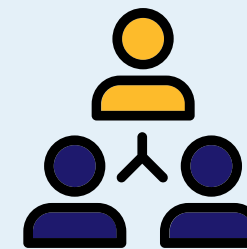
We respond to the unique realities of each rural community, addressing the specific challenges they identify as most urgent.

LOCALLY LED

We equip and partner with local leaders and Pastors to shape and carry forward solutions that are sustainable and community-owned.



RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED



We prioritize long-term, trust-based relationships that foster collaboration, accountability, and discipleship.

CHRIST CENTERED

We pursue holistic transformation—meeting physical needs and addressing spiritual poverty—grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



2025 AT A GLANCE

- 27 children receiving full sponsorship: restoring hope to vulnerable children through academics.
- Over 900 youth reached across schools and communities with the Word of God.
- 7 children with disabilities received regular therapy, nutrition, medical intervention, familial and psychosocial support.
- 25 women strengthened through fellowship and economic empowerment, collectively purchasing seven goats and three pigs.
- One fully functioning borehole provided new, lasting, and improved access to clean water.
- 10 at-risk youth were equipped with practical skills through tailoring and given renewed hope to dream again.
- 57 youths and 62 children found regu refuge, mentorship, and growth through weekend SOL Clubs and holiday programs at the Community Center.



WALKING WITH FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Our Special Needs and Inclusion Program walks alongside families of children with disabilities to offer consistent care, restore dignity, and ignite hope.

We envision communities where every child is valued, protected, and embraced, and where families live free from shame and isolation.

Recognizing that disability affects the entire family, we take a holistic approach - supporting the physical, emotional, and social well-being while strengthening the family unit.

In 2025, we regularly served **seven** children and their families through therapy, nutritional support, medical care, and community support groups. We conducted **ten** community-based therapy sessions, provided emergency medical care for two children, and supported the rehabilitation of two children affected by malnutrition: each step reflecting Christ's compassion in action.



MEET KERON!

Keron is a five-year-old boy who was born prematurely and has long carried a simple yet powerful dream: to walk independently and attend school like other children. For years, he could not walk without assistance, limiting his ability to learn, play, and fully engage with the world around him.

Through consistent therapy and encouragement, small but meaningful changes began to unfold. Today, Keron can move independently with the support of a walking stick, each step a hard-won victory. As his mobility has grown so has his confidence, and he now eagerly looks forward to walking to school on his own.

Your support is helping children like Keron take steps toward independence, dignity, and a brighter future: Keron's light will continue to shine brightly for the glory of God.

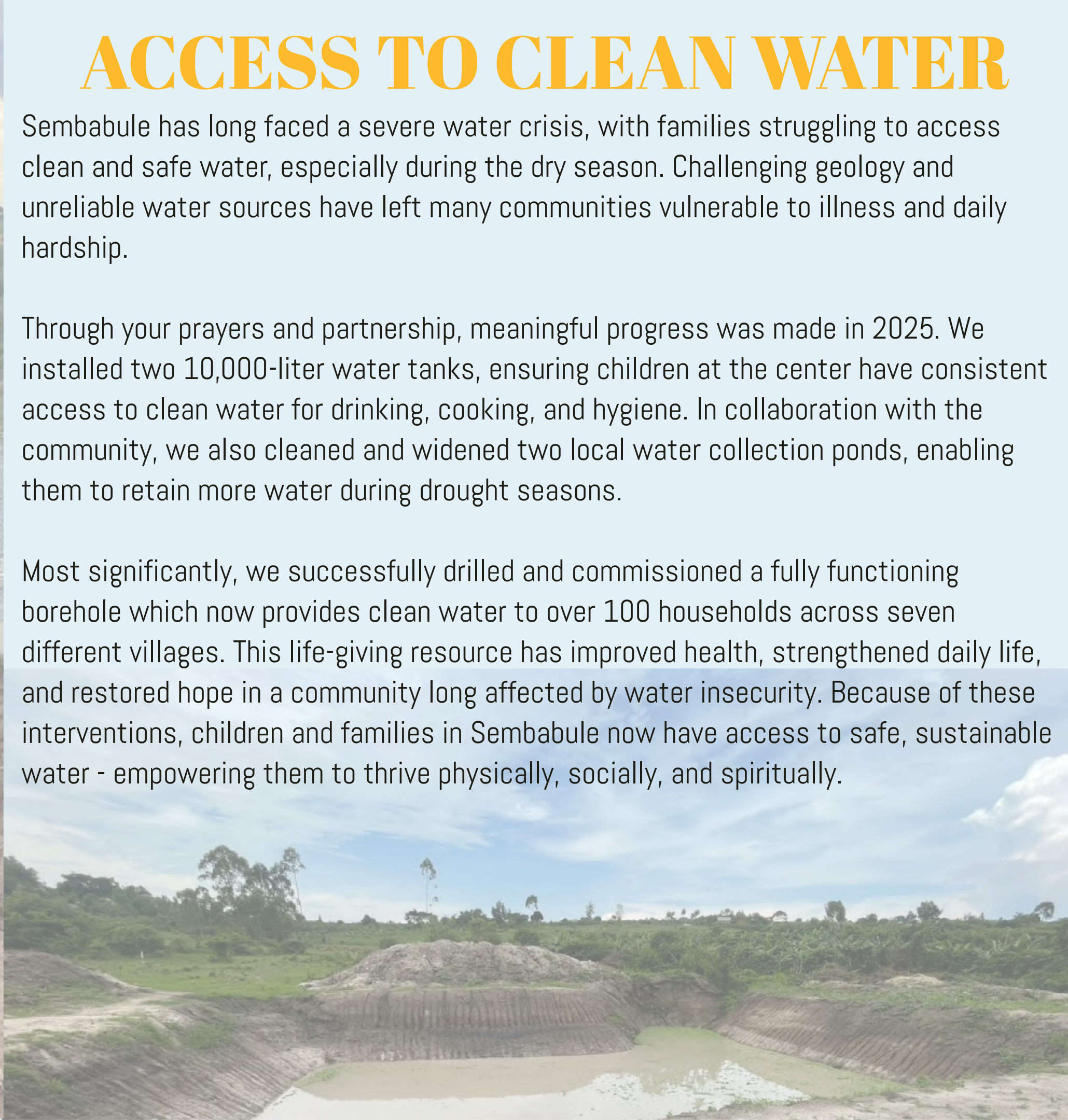


ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

Sembabule has long faced a severe water crisis, with families struggling to access clean and safe water, especially during the dry season. Challenging geology and unreliable water sources have left many communities vulnerable to illness and daily hardship.

Through your prayers and partnership, meaningful progress was made in 2025. We installed two 10,000-liter water tanks, ensuring children at the center have consistent access to clean water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. In collaboration with the community, we also cleaned and widened two local water collection ponds, enabling them to retain more water during drought seasons.

Most significantly, we successfully drilled and commissioned a fully functioning borehole which now provides clean water to over 100 households across seven different villages. This life-giving resource has improved health, strengthened daily life, and restored hope in a community long affected by water insecurity. Because of these interventions, children and families in Sembabule now have access to safe, sustainable water - empowering them to thrive physically, socially, and spiritually.



ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Access to quality education remains a significant challenge for many children in Uganda, especially those in vulnerable rural and low-income communities. Poverty, overcrowded classrooms, and limited resources continue to threaten consistent attendance and academic progress.

As Africa SOL, we believe education is a God-given tool for transformation and hope. Through our child sponsorship program, we walk alongside vulnerable children, helping them remain in school, grow in confidence, and envision a brighter future. In 2025, 14 sponsors faithfully partnered with us to support 27 children, easing the burden on families and restoring hope within homes and communities.



Nakato and Babirye are twin sisters who have faced significant family challenges. Through our sponsorship program, Babirye was initially the only twin supported, allowing her to stay in school and thrive academically while Nakato remained without assistance.

Although our policy supports one child per family to extend our reach, it was difficult to see the sisters separated in opportunity. In God's faithfulness, Babirye's sponsor chose to also support Nakato—an answered prayer that brought renewed hope to their entire family.

Today, the twins attend school together, encouraging one another and growing in confidence. With this support, we are expectant to see Nakato flourish alongside her sister.



CHALLENGED TO MAKE GOD-HONORING CHOICES

We engaged over 900 young people in two secondary schools and two communities through our theme, "Osazewo otya?" meaning "What choice will you make?". Through interactive sessions, mentorship, and faith-based guidance, youth were encouraged to make God-honoring decisions, discover their purpose, and envision a positive future while building leadership, critical thinking, and personal growth.



“We are happy you have come. We’ve never had informative sessions like these in our school. You should come every term!”

- A student at Nankondo Secondary School



YOUTH SKILLING CLUB

We have enrolled and provided **tailoring training to 10 at-risk youth**, each facing unique challenges and limited opportunities. Through hands-on instruction and mentorship, participants gained practical skills, renewed confidence, and hope for the future.

This program equips youth to create their own livelihoods, discover untapped potential, and envision a brighter future empowering them to break cycles of poverty, build independence, and contribute positively to their families and communities.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO DREAM AGAIN

OLIVER'S STORY

Oliver, a 16-year-old with seven siblings, faced a difficult path in her education. After repeating Primary Seven without success, she was sent to Kampala to work as a house help, where harsh conditions left her discouraged and uncertain about her future.

Her life changed when she joined Africa SOL's Skilling Club. Through the tailoring program, Oliver discovered a talent and passion she had never known. With guidance and mentorship, she learned to make button shirts, skirts, and shorts independently.

Today, **Oliver is skilled, confident, and empowered to dream again.** Her story shows how opportunity and mentorship can transform a life, restore hope, and open doors to a brighter future.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Our Women's Fellowship and Empowerment Program brings women together twice a month to study God's Word, pray, and grow in confidence and purpose. These gatherings provide more than fellowship, they remind women that they are valuable, capable, and empowered to shape their futures when they walk together in unity.

A powerful example of this transformation is their savings practice. By contributing just **2,000 UGX (~\$0.60–\$1.20)** at each meeting, the group collectively purchased seven goats and three piglets by year's end; goats that are a tangible asset that now support household income, food security, and long-term sustainability. This journey shows that through faith, mutual support, and small faithful steps, real and lasting change is possible.



A SHADE OF REFUGE

This year, your support transformed our Community Center into a place of refuge, growth, and hope, with 57 youth and 62 children attending our programs regularly. Through consistent engagement, we led 84 Bible study sessions, guiding children in faith, values, and positive life choices.

Children and youth were also engaged through music, dance, creative arts, and practical sustainability projects, including value-added broom making and recycling waste into charcoal. These activities helped participants discover their talents, build practical skills, and recognize opportunities within their own environment while promoting environmental care. Your partnership also made soccer camps possible, fostering discipline, teamwork, and leadership, and offering healthy alternatives to negative influences.

As trust deepened, the center became a safe space where young people felt free to share their real and often hidden struggles. A 17-year-old sought help for alcohol addiction, and a 15-year-old courageously disclosed abuse at home. These moments remind us that beyond programs, our consistent presence creates spaces for healing, guidance, and lasting hope.



BENEFIT CONCERT

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported and participated in our benefit concert and silent auction this year.

This gathering provided a meaningful opportunity to share the vision and mission of Africa SOL and to celebrate the stories of hope and transformation God is bringing throughout Uganda.

Through this event, **\$4,700** was raised, and we are sincerely thankful for the generosity of all who gave. We are especially grateful to those who attended, engaged, and stood with us in fellowship - your presence and support were a true encouragement.

To those who were unable to attend but lifted us up in prayer and with words of encouragement, we thank you as well. Your support in spirit strengthens our resolve to continue serving vulnerable children, families, and communities with faith and compassion.



OUR 2025 FINANCIALS

USA STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

USA INCOME AS DESIGNATED	AFRICA SHADES OF LIGHT	
	2024	2025
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	\$545.93	\$595.56
EDUCATION	8,61844	\$4,621.14
GENERAL MINISTRY	\$33,790.73	\$68,189.70
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	-	\$190.04
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,955.00	\$73,59644
EXPENSES		
FUNDRAISING	\$160.00	\$1,576.00
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$10,881.99	\$11,017.52
UGANDA PROGRAMS	\$30,927.00	\$61,800.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$41,966.99	\$74,393.52

UGANDA STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

UGANDA (UGX)	AFRICA SOL MINISTRIES	
	2024	2025
CUMULATIVE INCOME	112,157,624	212,825,876
EXPENSES		
ADMINISTRATIVE	9,035,600	27,203,000
GROUND MAINTAINENCE	2,173,500	5,330,000
PROGRAM EXPENSE	88,874,000	94,390,900
PROGRAM INVESTMENT	-	8,050,000
SEMBABULE WATER PROJECT	-	48,635,000
TRAVEL & MEETINGS	-	2,620,000
VEHICLE EXPENSE	3495,000	5,770,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	103,578,100	191,998,900

Africa Shades of Light operates two bank accounts: A U.S. based account manages all U.S. donations and activities, while funds for field work are disbursed to our Ugandan account, Africa SOL Ministries, to support program implementation in Uganda, East Africa.

Exchange Rate: \$1.00 USD = 3400 UGX

2026 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Being the Light

Continue bringing the light of Christ to the darkest places, offering hope, restoration, and practical support that reflects God's love in action.

Scale Skills Training & Social Enterprises

Acquire 5 additional sewing machines and establish a tailoring social enterprise to develop employable and entrepreneurial skills.

Strengthen Youth Empowerment & Discipleship

Reach at least 1,000 youth with the Word of God and life-giving messages about this year's theme: *Seasons*.

Advance Disability Inclusion & Family Support

Reach at least 100 caregivers of children with disabilities to train and encourage them on care and dignity.

Access to Education

Provide University and/or tertiary scholarships for vulnerable youth.

Develop Safe & Sustainable Community Infrastructure

Fence the community center and construct a building to support the skilling programs, therapy sessions, offices, and growing ministry needs.

Improve Access to Safe Water

Improve access to safe and clean water by providing at least 2 rain-water community collection points and individual water tanks for 50 households.

Expand Community Reach

Establish roots in new community to provide a shade of refuge, and be the Light of Christ

VISION TO SUSTAIN: 2026-2030

Our vision for 2026–2030 is to sustainably strengthen our founding community while developing a replicable, faith-centered model for other vulnerable areas. As Africa Shades of Light, we respond to real adversity by creating inclusive, safe spaces and long-term solutions that restore dignity, hope, and opportunity one community at a time.

Access to clean and safe water remains a critical challenge in the communities we serve, affecting health, education, and household stability. Over the next five years, we will prioritize sustainable water solutions that improve hygiene, reduce waterborne disease, and enable children and families to thrive.

We are equally committed to strengthening inclusive care by expanding holistic support for families of children living with disabilities. This includes increasing access to therapy services, developing community care points, equipping parents, and addressing stigma while affirming the God-given value of every child.

Education is central to our long-term sustainability. Beyond keeping vulnerable children in school, we envision Christ-centered institutions that foster academic excellence, discipleship, and purpose-driven lives while reducing dependency and creating lasting impact.

To break cycles of poverty, we will invest in women-led social enterprises and youth income-generating opportunities, building skills, resilience, and hope. At the heart of this vision, SOL Clubs will continue nurturing the God-given potential of children and youth through safe spaces for learning, mentorship, creativity, and spiritual growth.

To integrate into new communities by creating inclusive, trusted spaces where relationships are built, real adversity is addressed and deep, lasting roots are established for sustainable, community-led transformation.

Africa SOL remains committed to walking alongside communities, addressing root causes of adversity, and shining the light of Christ for generations to come.



OUR TEAM

USA TEAM

AKRAM & NICOLE KATONGOLE

ROSE & JOSH MAES

MARK & RENEE FISHER

ERIC & MERIDY ROBERTS

BRYAN & CHALORI SLADE

UGANDA TEAM

AKRAM & NICOLE KATONGOLE

NABULIME BETTY

KAMYA MARTIN

WASWA PIUS

MUSAAZI FRED

SEBAYIGA TITUS

NAMUGENYI HADIJA



OUR GRATITUDE

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports and believes in the mission of Africa Shades of Light. To our sponsors and donors, your generosity continues to open doors of hope, education, and opportunity for vulnerable children, youth, and families, creating lasting impact in our communities.

To our prayer partners and friends who faithfully lift this ministry before God and to those who encourage us through calls, messages, and check-ins your support strengthens us more than you know. Every prayer and act of kindness reminds us that we do not walk this journey alone.

We are deeply grateful for each of you who stand with us in different ways, helping carry the light of Christ to places where hope is needed most.

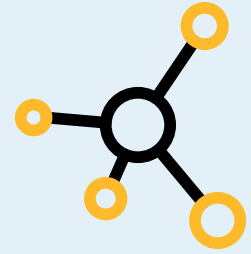
“The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, a spring whose waters never fail.”

Isaiah 58:11

GET INVOLVED



Stand with us in prayer for the children, families, communities, and team we serve



Help spread the mission of Africa SOL by sharing our story with others.



Share your time and gifts in mentoring, training, administration, fundraising or community outreach.



Sponsor a child or youth to provide access to education, care, and hope for a brighter future.



Donate to our programs or to propel the mission.





GET IN TOUCH

Africa Shades of Light is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with EIN **92-3924578** seeking to address adversity through ethical, collaborative, and sustainable action to empower underserved communities, families, and children to reach their God-given potential throughout Uganda, East Africa.



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