

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 / 2022



Prepared By :
Brad Hodge

I AM SOMEONE



Secondary school dreams being reached in Kamakwie, Sierra Leone

Mission Statement

I Am Someone creates projects that lift children with no family support out of extreme poverty. We empower communities to provide children access to education, shelter, healthcare, and nutrition.

The Board



Azzy Jay



Moya Maguire



Ingrid Gaiotto



Karly Whelan



Louise Jiricek
Secretary



Dun Mina
Treasurer



Steve Argent
Managing
Director



Brad Hodge
Chair



Vision

I Am Someone's vision is to continue increasing the number of communities that we work with to exponentially increase the number of children we support through **education, shelter, health and nutrition**. To achieve this, we will continue to foster close relationships with a range of locally driven initiatives that are aimed at improving the lives of children through schooling, shelter and the provision of health and nutrition. To ensure financial viability of this continued growth we will continue to foster the development of a community of volunteers and donors at the local level.

About Us

I Am Someone works with **local community groups** who share our same vision and goals. Together we help create and guide child focused programs that enhance access to educations, care, nutrition, sanitation, shelter and healthcare in regions where infrastructure is lacking due to extreme poverty. By funding and supporting our partners, **I Am Someone** is able to facilitate projects that create long term lasting change for remote communities and the vulnerable children within them.

Community driven initiatives – **I Am Someone** only works with local community driven initiatives. A big part of our work is in identifying appropriate partners and developing relationships with these organisations and individuals. These partnerships form the foundation of success and are one of the primary drivers of our effectiveness to date.

Most vulnerable children – Our key priority is to support only the most vulnerable children. While this presents a challenge in identifying those in the greatest need, we work closely with local communities, village elders, teachers, government and other local organisations to ensure that when we provide support it is going to the children in desperate situations with absolutely no support or those who need to be removed from physical and emotional abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

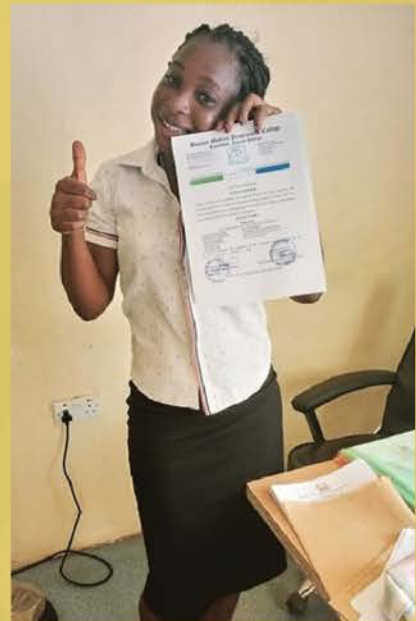
Director's Report

Despite being stifled by Covid both here and across our projects we managed to achieve some extraordinary successes. The incredible efforts of our board were rewarded with the certification of becoming a Deductible Gift Recipient! A deductible gift recipient is an organisation that can receive donations that are tax deductible, which means that donors can deduct their donation amount from their taxable income when lodging their tax return. A huge step for the future of our organisation.

We celebrated the fact that since our inception back in 2005 we have now helped bring access to education to over 10,000 vulnerable children!

The eagerly awaited return of markets ensured that we could start engaging with our volunteer network again, and bring in some extra funding. By January 2022 all our projects had returned to normality, allowing opportunities for us to begin to invest and improve in our projects once again.

With projects back in full swing, along came the news of our children making huge strides in their educational journeys with many progressing into the next phase of their learning. We now have large numbers of our young people studying a huge variety of courses ranging across business studies, technology, building, plumbing, electrician apprenticeships, social work, teaching certificates, development studies, agriculture, hairdressing, hospitality and so on. Some even graduating from university, some soon to become surgeons and lawyers! Amazing!



Suzanne Conteh – Kamakwie Project Coordinator proudly shows off her certificate for her diploma in Social Welfare.



Osman Turay (Tolo) our Country Coordinator for Sierra Leone on his way to our remote project in Samaya.



Kadiatu on her first day at university. A long journey from the rubbish tips where we first met!



Everything starts with a reliable water supply

It's through this process of continued long-term support that we begin to witness the very real breaking of the cycle of poverty our organisation is presenting through our work. Our once incredibly vulnerable children are now able to step confidently into the world not only able to help themselves, but to impact the lives of others. The ripple effect of truly supporting and empowering one child is a very real outcome from our constant efforts. Huge credit in achieving these outcomes of course goes to the children, who amaze with their commitment to grasp their opportunity and aim for the stars. Alongside them though we are blessed to have the most inspiring team of locals who guide and support them every step of the way.

We have spent time in over the last 12 months developing these relationships through training and ongoing mentoring to help deepen the pool of knowledge our partners have access to.

Examples of this are....

Suzanne Conteh our Project Manager for our Kamakwie project, Sierra Leone completed her Social Welfare diploma and is now studying nursing all whilst running our program there!!!

Alusine Turay was once a slightly troublesome young boy helped by our work but through years of support, he's completed his studies and gained a diploma in Social Welfare. He now helps passionately co-ordinate our programs in Sierra Leone along with managing our Madina outreach program.

Country Project Co-ordinators Henry Kabiriri (Uganda) and Osman Tolo (Sierra Leone) have curated incredible knowledge in their field and continue to develop skill sets that mean the projects we support are in very capable hands. Their processes in finding and assessing vulnerable children ensure we are reaching out to those in very real hardship.



Chairperson's Report

If I were to sum up this year, I think I would call it one of quiet achievement. We are very privileged at **I Am Someone** to have an incredible and fun team of board members. This year under guidance from Moya Maguire the board have managed to finish off the enormous task of developing a full set of policies. This was one of the major challenges towards getting deductible gift recipient status. Part of this work was to develop and ratify new MOUs with our in-country partners and to undertake a risk evaluation of the organisation followed by implementing the action plan.

We have some incredible volunteers working in the background, including Ben Smith who has been developing financial systems to track in-country finance reporting, David Egerton has applied his wizardry to our communications and database initiatives and Glenda Boschert who has been doing an incredible job with volunteers for our Melbourne markets.

Another substantial piece of work that was done was to complete a full overhaul of our financial systems which this year has been led by the amazing Duniella Mina. Yes, I know what you are thinking, this is all terribly boring governance stuff, but in reality, for those of you that have been involved in organisational change, you will know how much work this is, and how important it is for success.

As a board we have had the privilege of two new board members, Karly Whelan and Dun Mina, who have both brought new insight into the governance of the organisation. As a board we undertook strategic planning and developed a plan to guide us as we move to become a sustainable organisation. This work has not been easy, just ask the board members, but I think this work has provided us with a solid foundation to continue to grow as an organisation.

While this year may have been one of quiet achievement, the impact of the work of the board will be felt for many years to come. I look forward to working with the board over the next year to implement our plan and increase our impact in the lives of the communities we serve.



Brad Hodge
Chair

Project outcomes

Kenya

Overview

- 2 main projects (Heartspring and Masai)
- 262 children in our school programs.
- 56 children receiving full time support.
- 12 children having exited and in tertiary programs.
- 9 teachers supported
- 6 care workers, security, cooks
- 2 in county coordinators

This year we connected our main project to mains water!!! New water tanks were installed along with a new dining room, upgraded kitchen and new beds. The children supported by our programs are achieving fantastic results with many of our secondary school young people gaining access to university, others completing their graduation from uni.



A new dining hall for students at Heartspring, Kenya.



University students return back home on their school holidays to connect with their younger friends and tell stories from the big city. They've some many inspiring tales to motivate those who are dreaming big.



Celebrating the arrival of fresh flowing clean water from the mains connection

Project outcomes

Uganda

Overview

- 3 main projects (Kasese, Kitholi and Karasundara)
- 560 children in our school programs.
- 45 children receiving full time support.
- 18 children having exited and in tertiary programs.
- 6 teachers supported
- 6 care workers, security, cooks, accountant
- 1 in county coordinators

The projects have undertaken research in remote villages as the foundation for pilot projects and to identify neediest villages and how we can assist. We have been working with our team to establish a new organisation to expand our work in Uganda. Vocational studies are going very well. Our shipping container that is used for local business, increased its shop residents to 3 which assists the project by increasing rental income to cover water and electric bills for our Kasese Centre.

A new name was registered, and constitution written up, changing from Building Future Stars to Future Stars Uganda. A new chairperson was also appointed, Masika Joyce comes to the board with an incredible amount of experience in this space. The project ute was repaired which enabled us to continue with deliveries of food and educational materials to the children associated with our projects.



With boarding schools and vocational training being the main focus of our beneficiaries in Uganda the distribution of materials for a new year of study is always a big day. Kasese



Emmy – One of the individuals we have been supporting since 2010, now in year 4 of studying medicine at Kampala University.

Project outcomes

Sierra Leone

Overview

Across our 4 main centres (Kamakwie, Tombo, Madina and Samaya) we support...

1110 children being educated in our schools.

81 children receiving full time support.

18 having exited and now being supported through tertiary courses.

31 teachers employed

16 care workers, security, cooks

2 In country coordinators

1 Country manager

The projects in Kamakwie and Tombo saw more entrants into tertiary level education with many accessing university or diploma level training! A new bakery was established in Tombo which makes a small profit each month. More importantly it means that the children in this project have a good supply of bread. Another successful year of rice loans. This year 19 sacks of rice were generated which comes back to our Kamakwie project for the children to eat. Our community milling project continues to generate small income and allows us to process rice for free. Gardens established growing yams, cassava, onions and chilli to be consumed at our Kamakwie project.



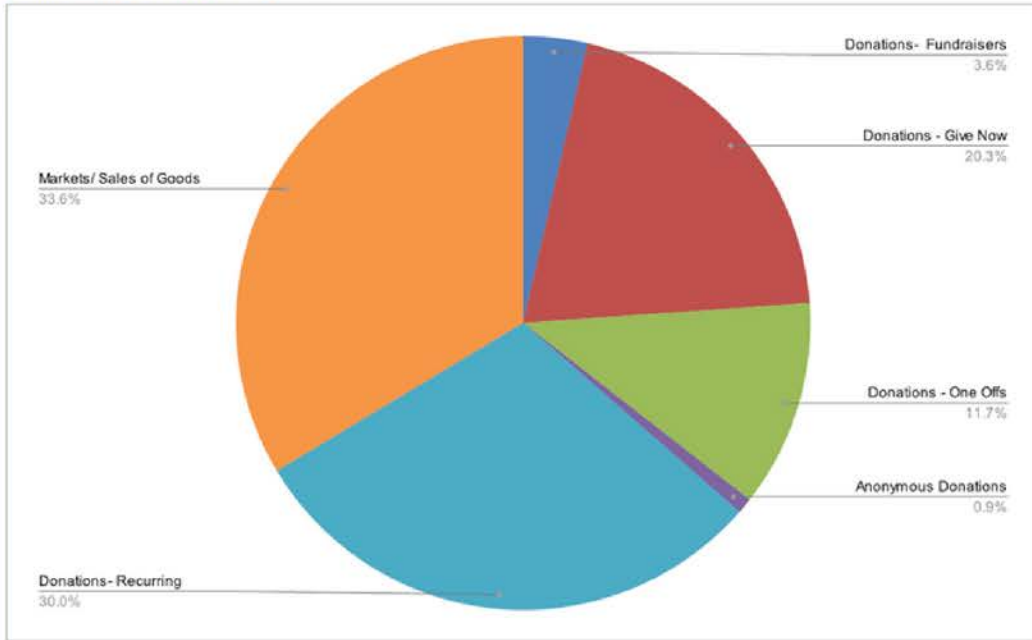
Cassava and Yams are planted annually to bring in food for our children in Kamakwie.



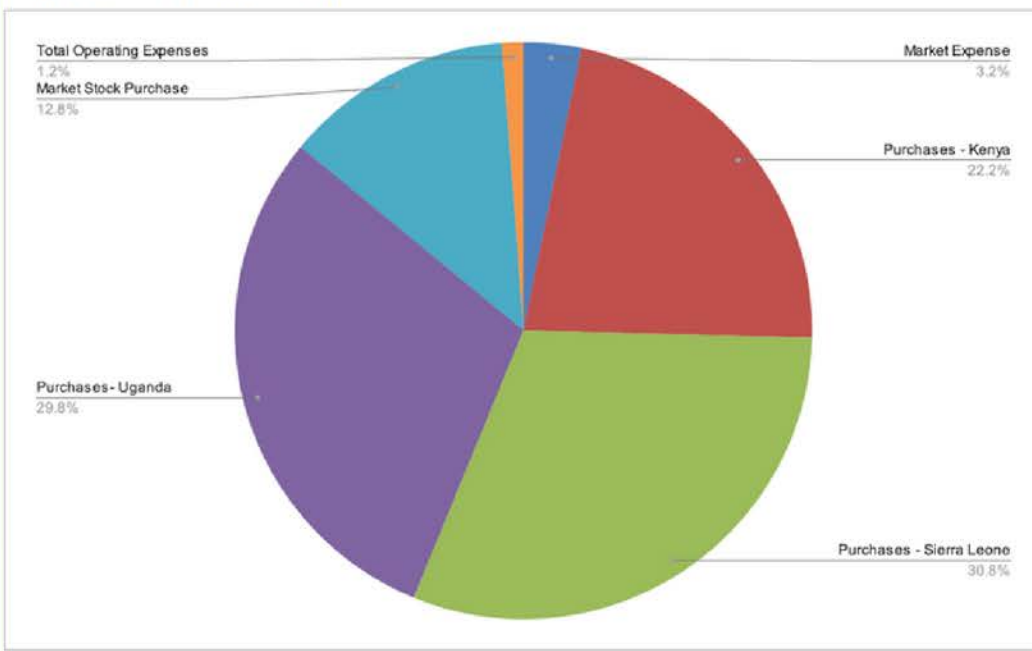
Rice from our rice loan program that serves families in remote villages in the country's north.

Finance

FY 2021-2022 I AM SOMEONE TOTAL INCOME



FY 2021-2022 I AM SOMEONE TOTAL EXPENSE



Finance

Profit and Loss I Am Someone - FY 2022 Cash Basis		Month By Month- FY 22												
		Account	Jun 2022	May 2022	Apr 2022	Mar 2022	Feb 2022	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Nov 2021	Oct 2021	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Jul 2021
TOTALS- FY 22														
Account		TOTAL FY 2022	193.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	480.00	70.00	5,387.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	650.00	0.00
Trading Income														
Donations- Fundraisers		7,505.00	1,840.27	1,739.64	3,366.11	1,859.16	2,146.19	6,039.51	2,170.69	1,964.05	4,511.43	10,264.48	2,822.24	3,523.32
Donations - Give Now		42,247.09	1,840.27	1,739.64	3,366.11	1,859.16	2,146.19	6,039.51	2,170.69	1,964.05	4,511.43	10,264.48	2,822.24	3,523.32
Donations - One Offs		24,275.00	5,185.00	1,300.00	310.00	1,140.00	140.00	590.00	6,010.00	1,265.00	1,469.00	560.00	1,815.00	4,491.00
Anonymous Donations		1,810.00	75.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	233.00	203.00	233.00	307.00
Project - Recurring		27,327.25	2,403.00	2,867.50	2,173.00	2,397.50	2,068.00	2,098.00	2,118.00	2,555.75	2,038.00	2,273.00	2,240.00	2,095.50
Markets/ Sales of Goods		69,983.44	4,369.79	14,649.03	5,036.96	6,097.77	4,454.25	3,620.04	15,946.96	9,554.41	631.69	63.31	1,430.60	4,128.63
Sponsorship - Recurring		35,029.00	2,832.00	2,857.00	2,752.00	2,837.00	2,864.00	2,919.00	3,004.00	3,024.00	2,912.00	2,942.00	3,002.00	3,084.00
Total Trading Income		208,176.78	16,898.06	23,543.17	13,743.07	14,436.43	12,257.44	15,449.55	34,749.65	18,476.21	11,795.12	17,005.79	12,192.84	17,629.45
Cost of Sales														
Market Expense		6,283.00	1,032.50	121.00	0.00	2,223.85	0.00	784.50	471.60	641.75	0.00	0.00	744.80	263.00
Purchases - Kenya		43,100.00	2,100.00	0.00	11,950.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	2,250.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	13,200.00	5,500.00	0.00
Purchases - Sierra Leone		59,950.00	10,000.00	3,500.00	4,100.00	9,000.00	4,800.00	4,000.00	6,300.00	0.00	6,200.00	3,400.00	7,650.00	1,000.00
Purchases - Uganda		57,900.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	7,100.00	1,500.00	1,300.00
Stock Purchase		24,969.00	0.00	7,119.50	0.00	3,948.00	1,286.00	0.00	7,827.00	440.00	0.00	1,975.50	0.00	2,373.00
Total Cost of Sales		192,202.00	13,132.50	25,740.50	15,150.00	25,171.85	19,086.00	7,784.50	26,848.60	3,081.75	10,200.00	25,675.50	15,394.80	4,936.00
Gross Profit		15,974.78	3,765.56	(2,197.33)	(1,406.93)	(10,735.42)	(6,828.56)	7,665.05	7,901.05	15,394.46	1,595.12	(8,669.71)	(3,201.96)	12,693.45
Other Income														
Interest Income - Unrestricted		15.60	2.13	2.01	3.26	1.57	1.69	1.26	0.90	0.43	1.06	0.43	0.43	0.41
Total Other Income		15.60	2.13	2.01	3.26	1.57	1.69	1.26	0.90	0.43	1.06	0.43	0.43	0.41
Operating Expenses														
Bank Fees		120.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bank Fees - Transfers		216.00	12.00	12.00	18.00	18.00	12.00	12.00	30.00	6.00	24.00	30.00	30.00	12.00
Insurance		1,345.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,345.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Website Expense		659.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	659.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Operating Expenses		2,341.03	22.00	22.00	28.00	28.00	22.00	681.73	40.00	1,361.30	34.00	40.00	40.00	22.00
Net Profit		13,649.35	3,745.69	(2,217.32)	(1,431.67)	(10,761.85)	(6,848.87)	6,984.60	7,861.95	14,033.59	1,562.18	(8,709.28)	(3,241.53)	12,671.86

Get Involved



Changing the world to any substantial degree is really hard, but, changing the world a little bit is relatively simple. We would love to have company and help to change the world a little bit.

Here are a few ways that you can make a contribution

Volunteering

- Markets - a big chunk of our income is generated through selling photo blocks at markets across Victoria and beyond. If you are the kind of person that loves to share stories with people we would love to have your involvement at a regular market. Email Steve (steve@iamsomeone.org.au) for more details
- Governance - this is just a big word to capture all of the mechanics of running a successful not for profit organisation. If you have professional skills that you would love to share with us, we will create a space for you. These might include administration, finance, marketing, graphic design, systems or anything else that you think might be remotely useful. Send me an email (B.Hodge@latrobe.edu.au) and I will arrange a time to meet.
- Advocacy - We are a community of volunteers, but we need to keep expanding. If you have friends that you think would enjoy getting involved or that have money they would love to see invested in a good cause, have a chat to us about the best ways to advocate for **I Am Someone**

Giving

Finally, donate (and it is tax deductible now). Of course we love it when people donate on the spur of the moment, it is great to get a surprise message to say that somebody really believes in the work that we are doing. But also consider the idea of donating a percentage of your income to changing the world. Then start giving that every month. You might want to give that to a couple of organisations, which is great. Regular donations help us to build the sustainability of our work and ensures that we can guarantee that our local organisations can rely on us. Find out more and make a donation at <https://iamsomeone.org.au/donate-now/>

Thank You



The work of **I Am Someone** would be nothing without your ongoing support. The money you donate, the time you spend and your advocacy to get involved are the only reasons that the lives of these children have been able to be so dramatically changed. As you would well know, we only support children without other options, children without any real hope. We work to empower local communities to ensure that these young people have access to everything they need to thrive. After all, real change only happens when you empower communities to do things in a way that works for them. So thank you for your support this year and we look forward to moving into the next year for these young people.

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