

# I AM SOMEONE

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ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2022/23



# OUR MISSION

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**I Am Someone** works to break the cycle of poverty by partnering with local community groups to lift children with no family support out of extreme poverty. We empower communities to create projects that provide children access to education, shelter, healthcare, and nutrition.

# OUR VISION

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**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 develop a community of volunteers and donors at a local level.



# ABOUT US

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**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 education, care, nutrition, sanitation, shelter and healthcare in regions where infrastructure is lacking due to extreme poverty. By funding and supporting 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.

# THE BOARD

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Brad Hodge - Chair  
(until June '23)



Ingrid Gaiotto - Vice Chair



Louise Jiricek - Secretary



Duniella Mina - Treasurer  
(until June '23)



Steve Argent - Managing  
Director



Karly Whelan - Board Member



Moya Maquire - Board Member



Alison Jones - Board Member



Kara Stone - Board Member  
(from Oct '22)

I Am Someone acknowledges the traditional owners of this land on which the I Am Someone board meets, the Dja Dja Wurrung people, and we pay our respect to the elders past and present.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people have been custodians of this land for many centuries, and have performed age old ceremonies of celebration, ritual and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region. We express our gratitude that we share this land together, our sorrow for some of the cost of that sharing, and our hope and belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice and partnership together.

# MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT

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This was the year that saw our charity reach the grand old age of 18! We've reached adulthood as an organisation so it was a great time to reflect on what we've achieved over those years and to assess what adult life as an NGO might look like moving forward.

Over the years we've proudly helped educate close to 12,000 children across countless communities in schools we've built from the ground up, or partnered with to help those schools succeed. Of course, it's not just the schools. Our Children's Villages and educational scholarships create the base for those children with absolutely no support networks to shine. It is here, with those amazingly resilient children that we're consistently witnessing successes as they grow and become skilled, educated employed individuals in the world. Interwoven with all those individual stories we've delivered water wells, rice loans, farming/agricultural projects, bakeries, and so many other initiatives, it has been a busy and successful 18 years of helping lift the individuals and their communities we work with away from poverty.

In May of this year, a trip with long-term volunteer Mark Anstey to Uganda provided an inspiring way to mark these 18 years of change-making. Due to Covid, it had been the longest period of time since our inception that a volunteer team hadn't been over. In many ways this time of absence allowed our local partners to flourish and grow without being as dependent on us. However, the connections and shared learning that come with these visits are undeniably valuable to everyone involved. We rejoiced in seeing children we've been helping since 2010 all doing so well as young adults in life, thriving, healthy, strong, and unrecognisable from those fragile lonely children we met all those years ago.

As a contrast, we then set to work initiating our new pilot projects in Uganda, targeting new impoverished villages, and finding children within them living in the most desperate of circumstances. It took me back to the beginning when we first started helping and underlined just what impact we can have on a life by offering the support we offer.

With proof of our efforts succeeding in Uganda, we've also witnessed amazing progress in Kenya and Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone has taken huge strides across our centres. Samaya (our most remote project) has been fully renovated, toilets and showers constructed, an exterior wall built and is now ready to offer boarding scholarships to the region's most vulnerable children.

In our main existing Children's Villages of Kamakwie and Tombo we've reroofed buildings, worked on more fencing, extended our rice loan scheme, and established successful duck and goat rearing projects for income and food generation.

Over in Kenya a new classroom was constructed to help with the growing numbers enrolled in the school as well as new steel beds being purchased for our boarders.

Across all projects, as another year passes more and more children enter high-level education. Boarding schools, universities, colleges, vocational centres, and places of work experience all take in hundreds of our children as they enter the latter stages of learning.

As always huge recognition goes to our local partners who continue to inspire us constantly with the commitment and dedication they give to the children. With some of our early beneficiaries now teaching in our classrooms, working as social workers or project managers, we have a wealth of passionate, skilled talent fuelling the future of our work.

In Australia, we've spent the year looking at what the future looks like and how we build the foundations of the organisation to be one that is set up and ready for growth. It's an exciting time as we hope to explore new ways of finding funding to help improve our projects and hopefully begin new ones.

Being volunteer-driven components frequently change. An enormous thanks and appreciation goes to our exiting Chair Brad Hodge who helped guide the organisation and committed so much to helping take I Am Someone to a new level upon which we now build from.

A special thank you to our board members, volunteers in our external working groups, market volunteers, and all of those donors out there who enable us to keep on making positive change happen in the world. At a time when it's been difficult to find helping hands, your contributions are more appreciated than ever!

## Steve Argent

Managing Director



Meeting new children to help – The process of finding the most vulnerable to help.

# PROJECT UPDATES

## SIERRA LEONE

4 main projects - Kamakwie, Tombo, Madina and Samaya

1220 children in our school programs

83 children receiving full time support

24 children having exited and in tertiary programs

31 teachers supported

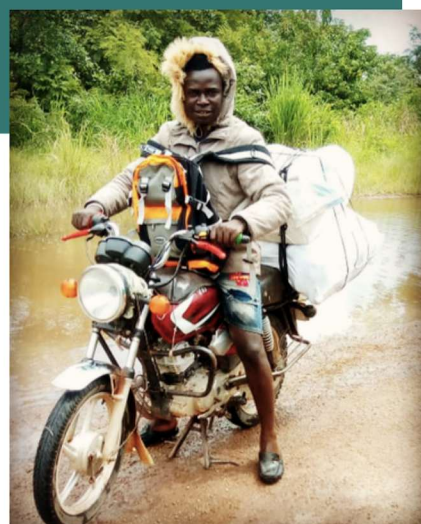
16 care workers, security, cooks, accountant

2 in country coordinators

1 in country manager



- New project in Samaya up and running - works over the year included beds built, new toilet block and fencing
- New batteries for the solar systems in Kamakwie and Tombo projects
- Buildings painted in Kamakwie and Samaya
- School supplies delivered to Samaya, Tombo and Kamakwie
- Ishmael Conteh from Tombo accepted into University to study IT
- New motorbike purchased for the local team
- Another successful year in the rice loan project - allowing a small income to be made and rice processed for eating



Alusine makes the wild journey to our hardest to reach project to deliver school supplies and other needs.



Alimamy in Sierra Leone, recently the first of our kids over there to leave university with a BSC Honors in Computer Science. (shots of the beginning and the end)

## KENYA

2 main projects - Heartspring and Masai  
291 children in our school programs  
60 children receiving full time support  
16 children having exited and in tertiary programs  
9 teachers supported  
6 care workers, security, cooks  
2 in country coordinators



- 3 boys achieving grades to allow them to head off to university
- New clothes were delivered to the children
- An inflation in the cost of staple goods has meant the monthly budget to be sent over to the projects has had to increase
- Massive rains caused minor damage around the centres





Juliet from Kenya who gained her Bachelor degree in Education

## UGANDA

3 main projects - Kasese, Kitholi and Karasundara  
620 children in our school programs  
56 children receiving full time support  
26 children having exited and in tertiary programs  
6 teachers supported  
6 care workers, security, cooks, accountant  
1 in country coordinators



- Kids joining vocational courses in fashion and design, mechanics, building and construction
- Project ute delivered school equipment to remote villages and picking kids up to take them boarding school and vocational centres
- Ebola outbreak saw school year shortened and exams moved forward
- In December seven older children went into vocational training to study engineering, agriculture and computers
- Steve and Mark visited in June - see Managing Directors report for more information.



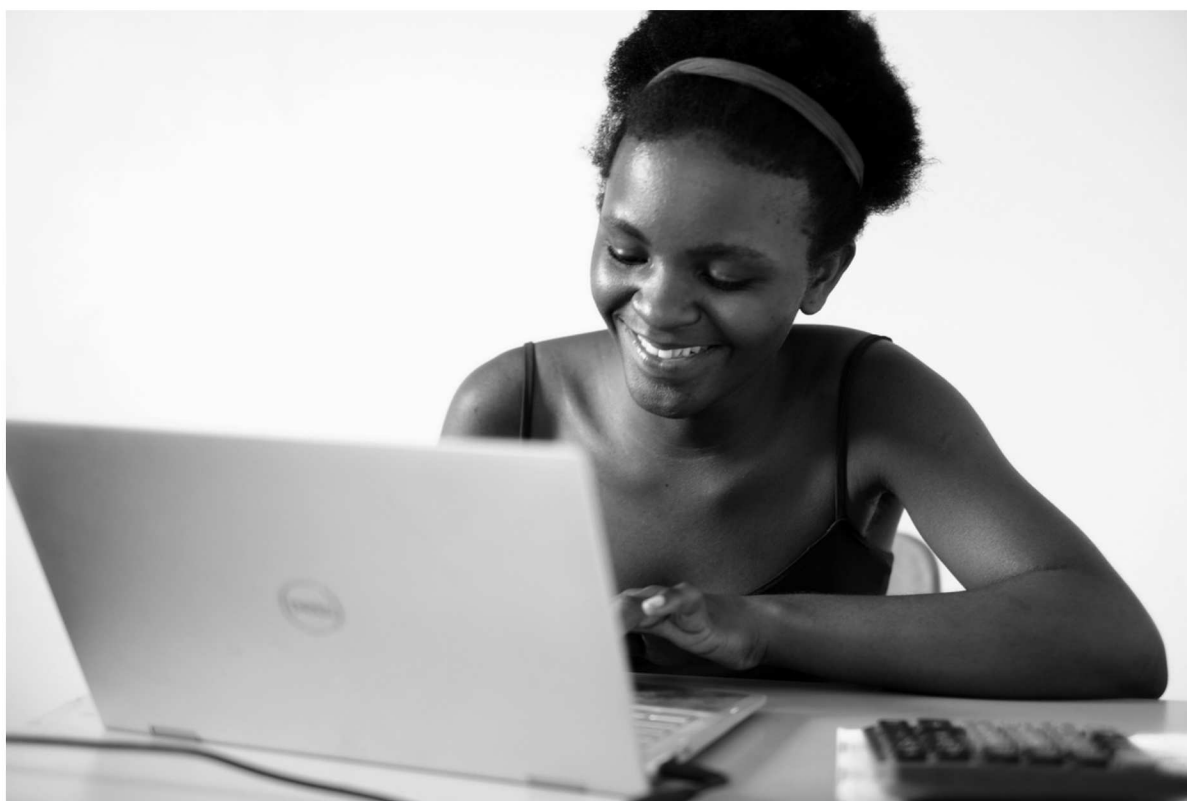
Secondary school – Just some of our brilliant girls who aspire to become the next future stars



Vocational training – The Katwe Vocational Institute where future builders, engineers, fashion designers, tailors, and mechanics are made.



Dr Emmy – One of our leading stars Emmy on his placement year at Lira Hospital as he completes his journey in becoming a surgeon.



Boarding school – Immaculate joins boarding school as she studies to focus on becoming a social worker.

# BOARD REPORT

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It has been another great year of celebrating milestones and achievements. In April '23 the organisation celebrated its 18th year anniversary!! The board wishes to thank and acknowledge all the hard work, time, effort and love that Steve Argent – Founder and Managing Director – has poured into I Am Someone (previously OrphFund). It is outstanding what he (and the many volunteers) has achieved in those 18 years. Key achievements to date include:

11,000+ children educated in our classrooms

15 major projects established (primary and secondary schools and children's village)

500 children provided safety and support within children's villages

420 scholarships into secondary and tertiary education

4 community water wells established

Our main fundraisers this year could not have been done without all our wonderful volunteers and community support. In early March we held a fundraising event at Castlemaine Idyll where our inaugural Peoples Choice award raised \$900 and we inspired 15 more locals to become regular donors to support the amazing work we do!! In late March we held another fundraiser as part of the Castlemaine Fringe Festival – the legendary Scrabble Battle at The Salvage Yard, Castlemaine. A great fun night where we raised approx. \$2000 as well as more awareness and support for IAS. Thank you to all the volunteers at both these events – we can't do it without you!!

As always, our regular market stalls continue to raise much needed funds. Along with all other sectors across Australia our volunteer numbers dropped over the last few years. They are slowly climbing back up but we wanted to acknowledge those volunteers that have shown up regularly – especially to Glenda in Melbourne without whom the Rose St Market wouldn't be able to run!

Behind the scenes the Board has been busy as always. In Oct '22 we welcomed Kara Stone as a Board Member and her skills in strategic planning have already been put to good use! At the EOFY we sadly said goodbye to two Board members – Brad Hodge (Chair) and Duniella (Treasurer). We would like to acknowledge the huge amount of time and effort both Brad and Dun have given to helping the Board of IAS.

This year we engaged with Global Consulting Group in conjunction with Monash University to develop a Corporate Funding Strategy. This was an insightful project and helped us understand our unique value as a charity, as well as the ideal approach and the audience to engage for us to be successful with Corporate Donations. We look forward to using the information gathered to help us progress towards gaining our first corporate donor. We have also engaged with Deloitte as part of their staff charity day. This has led to some important help in fixing up the block shop on our website.

In June '23 it was great to have Steve Argent and Mark Antsy head over the Uganda. It was wonderful to see the updates of the children and projects as well as bringing in 35 new children to support. See the Managing Directors report for more detail.

In its 18-year history, this year marks a pivotal change for the charity. For nearly two decades, the Managing Director, Steve, had selflessly volunteered his time, guiding the organisation both here locally and coordinating with our various partners overseas. This year, however, the charity is trialling a new approach, enabling donors to allocate a portion of their contributions toward administrative expenses, a novel way to engage donors in sustaining the charity's operations.

Thanks to the generosity of these donors, for the first time in the charities history, we can now provide Steve, the dedicated Managing Director, a modest wage for his countless hours of tireless work and dedication. This development not only enhances the charity's financial sustainability but also serves as a heartfelt gesture of appreciation for the tireless work that has driven our success.

Moving forward into the 23/24 financial year we are looking forward to growing and engaging with our donor base to further strengthen our financial sustainability, continuing working on our strategic plan, risk management, and supporting a volunteer trip to help at our projects. Thank you all for being part of this journey to help break the cycle of poverty by empowering children through education.

## Louise Jiricek

Secretary



Gathering new donors and celebrating 18 years at  
Castlemaine Idyll

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Profit and Loss

I Am Someone  
For the month ended 30 June 2023

Cash Basis

	JUN 2023	MAY 2023	APR 2023	MAR 2023	FEB 2023	JAN 2023	DEC 2022	NOV 2022	OCT 2022	SEP 2022	AUG 2022	JUL 2022	YEAR TO DATE
<b>Trading Income</b>													
Donations- Fundraisers	-	-	2,100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	320.00	-	2,420.00
Donations- Give Now	7,304.59	2,388.62	2,253.09	3,644.75	1,584.12	4,255.72	1,670.49	1,719.23	1,739.11	1,499.27	1,729.19	4,551.99	36,560.07
Donations 10% admin	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	-	-	-	-	200.00
Donations 20% Admin	180.00	260.00	100.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	11,993.61	-	50,000.00	-	61,433.61
Donations Received	15,395.00	1,035.00	1,530.50	4,555.00	200.00	285.00	9,312.00	750.00	300.00	3,625.00	360.00	1,075.00	40,350.50
Project- Recurring	4,738.00	4,827.00	4,360.00	4,830.00	4,465.00	4,732.00	4,510.00	4,554.50	4,845.00	4,865.00	5,519.50	4,700.00	56,126.00
Sales of Goods	4,295.76	14,910.86	8,369.22	10,643.77	4,431.87	4,577.85	22,035.93	19,847.22	7,657.84	7,628.51	7,102.06	5,443.43	116,964.32
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>31,898.35</b>	<b>23,446.48</b>	<b>18,746.81</b>	<b>23,678.52</b>	<b>10,885.99</b>	<b>14,858.57</b>	<b>37,733.33</b>	<b>27,075.94</b>	<b>26,555.54</b>	<b>17,817.78</b>	<b>65,030.75</b>	<b>19,776.42</b>	<b>316,695.50</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>													
Market Expense	-	-	-	-	2,002.00	555.50	-	-	1,178.00	1,827.00	434.50	-	5,989.00
Purchases- Kenya	7,000.00	4,200.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	-	5,100.00	17,200.00	-	2,300.00	4,700.00	4,100.00	-	41,800.00
Purchases- Sierra Leone	-	3,000.00	5,500.00	9,000.00	2,400.00	9,000.00	14,000.00	-	6,000.00	14,500.00	22,000.00	8,000.00	91,400.00
Purchases- Uganda	10,000.00	15,000.00	3,500.00	-	7,500.00	9,000.00	8,600.00	-	13,000.00	-	8,400.00	2,500.00	77,500.00
Stock Purchase	10,989.00	6,347.35	1,600.00	6,736.00	1,801.90	880.73	17,534.85	906.60	4,452.00	5,154.85	2,010.85	1,681.00	60,095.33
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>27,989.00</b>	<b>28,547.35</b>	<b>12,700.00</b>	<b>17,836.00</b>	<b>13,703.90</b>	<b>24,536.23</b>	<b>57,334.85</b>	<b>906.60</b>	<b>26,932.00</b>	<b>26,181.85</b>	<b>36,945.35</b>	<b>12,981.00</b>	<b>285,784.33</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>3,909.35</b>	<b>(5,101.07)</b>	<b>6,046.81</b>	<b>5,842.52</b>	<b>(2,817.91)</b>	<b>(10,486.66)</b>	<b>(19,601.52)</b>	<b>26,169.34</b>	<b>(306.44)</b>	<b>(8,364.07)</b>	<b>28,085.40</b>	<b>7,588.42</b>	<b>30,911.17</b>
<b>Other Income</b>													
Interest Income - Unrestricted	61.50	56.20	56.32	46.94	48.07	46.25	41.03	34.67	27.65	23.55	14.32	8.33	464.83
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>61.50</b>	<b>56.20</b>	<b>56.32</b>	<b>46.94</b>	<b>48.07</b>	<b>46.25</b>	<b>41.03</b>	<b>34.67</b>	<b>27.65</b>	<b>23.55</b>	<b>14.32</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>464.83</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>													
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	120.00
Bank Fees - Transfers	-	30.00	18.00	18.00	12.00	30.00	30.00	-	30.00	18.00	36.00	12.00	234.00
Contractor Fees	3,200.00	-	-	-	1,600.00	400.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,200.00
Fundraising Expenses	1,983.00	1,446.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,429.00
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,453.10	-	-	-	-	1,453.10
Interest Paid	0.02	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Room Hire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58.00	-	-	-	58.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>5,193.02</b>	<b>1,486.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>1,622.00</b>	<b>440.06</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>1,463.10</b>	<b>98.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>46.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>10,494.18</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(1,222.17)</b>	<b>(6,530.87)</b>	<b>6,075.13</b>	<b>5,861.46</b>	<b>(4,381.84)</b>	<b>(10,874.47)</b>	<b>(19,600.49)</b>	<b>24,749.91</b>	<b>(436.79)</b>	<b>(8,368.52)</b>	<b>28,053.72</b>	<b>7,575.75</b>	<b>20,881.82</b>

Donor requests of 20% and 10% of donation to be allocated towards administration and operating costs totalling \$12,706.80

# GET INVOLVED

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## 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](mailto: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 useful. Email us at [hello@iamsomeone.org.au](mailto:hello@iamsomeone.org.au)

**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. 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.

# I AM SOMEONE

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