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We empower through shelter



Oweek. Peter Mayiga, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Buganda receives Jonathan Reckford, the Chief Executive Officer of Habitat for Humanity International at Bulange.

About Habitat for Humanity in Uganda

Habitat For Humanity Uganda (HFHU) is an affiliate of Habitat For Humanity International (HFHI) whose global impact has positively affected more than 47 million people in over 70 countries and enabled them meet their affordable housing needs.

Established in Uganda in 1982, HFHU has built, rehabilitated, and repaired more than 40,000 homes, providing adequate and affordable shelter for over 240,000 people. HFHU people-centred approach focuses on partnerships with local communities and the housing sector players to achieve a broader societal impact, thus fulfilling our mission of 'Seeking to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope'.

HFHU's current Strategic Plan 2023-2027 aims to shape the organization's work, operations, and ambition to achieve her current outlook for the future.

Vision

A Uganda where everyone has a decent place to live and thrive

Mission

Seeking to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope

Our partnerships Focus As Habitat for Humanity Uganda, our partnership focuses on building collaborations with institutional agencies, corporate entities, local governments, central government and families to deliver strength, stability and self-reliance through: Habitability and adequacy of housing; Affordable and inclusive housing; Equitable basic services; Tenure security for sustainable housing

Our Top Innovations of the Year

The Youth Hubs Youth Hubs are regional training centres where marketable housing value chain skills are offered to youth. The model allows participating youths to acquire relevant vocational skills within their communities based on identified opportunities. The model also allows participants to access other services such as life resilience skills, reproductive health services and financial literacy.

Cost Sharing for Housing This approach is in response to the growing demand for shelter. Partner families contribute family labour, water for construction, digging of the pit for VIP latrine, excavation of foundation, soil bricks, aggregate stones, sand and food items for site workers, which account for 25% of the total cost of constructing a house, amounting to approximately UGX 25,000,000. HFHU covers the remaining 75% of the cost (UGX 25,000,000), enabling an extra house for every three houses constructed.

ISSB and Earthen Floors Interlocking Stabilised Soil Blocks (ISSBs) is an alternative to burnt/fired soil bricks. The use of ISSBs for construction reduces the cutting down of tree for firing/burning the bricks since ISSBs are compacted by a compressing machine with high compressive strength and reduces the cost of construction by 30%. In the FY23, HFHU constructed 10 houses using ISSBs for walling as well as earthen floors in place of cement floors, all of them at 80% completion rate as at the end of the FY23. Use of earthen floors in place of the cement floors further contributes to conservation of the environment.

The Home Equals Campaign The Home Equals Campaign is a global advocacy effort for Habitat for Humanity to promote equitable access to housing in informal settlements. HFHU is focusing on collaborative participation for residents of informal settlements, essential basic services and strengthening land governance and leadership for tenure security.

Our Partners during the Year

Asheville Area Habitat For Humanity (NC)				
Association of Real Estate Agents (AREA) Uganda	Midland Habitat For Humanity (TX)			
Austin Habitat For Humanity (TX)	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development			
Black Hills Area Habitat For Humanity (SD)	Monroe County IN, HFH of (IN)			
Buganda Kingdom	Northwest Metro Atlanta, Habitat For Humanity of (GA)			
Cape Cod, Habitat For Humanity of (MA)	Orlando & Osceola County, Habitat For Humanity of Greater (FL)			
Chemung County Habitat For Humanity (NY)	Pikes Peak Habitat For Humanity (CO)			
East St. Tammany Habitat For Humanity (LA)	Proctor & Gamble (P&G)			
Erie Area Habitat For Humanity , Greater (PA)	Rowan County, Habitat For Humanity of (NC)			
Evansville, Habitat For Humanity of (IN)	Shelter and Settlements Alternatives			
Fayette County, Habitat For Humanity of (OH)	Sisters Habitat For Humanity (OR)			
Flagler Habitat For Humanity (FL)	Soroti District Local Government			
Fort Collins Habitat For Humanity (CO)	Southern Santa Barbara, Habitat For Humanity of (CA), CA ID			
Foster Family Foundation	St. Joseph County, Habitat For Humanity of (IN)			
Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission (GOAC)	St. Tammany West, Habitat For Humanity (LA)			
Habitat For Humanity Netherlands	Syracuse Habitat For Humanity (NY)			
Hancock County Habitat For Humanity (ME)	Tennessee, Habitat For Humanity of			
Indian River County, Habitat For Humanity of (FL)	Uganda Electricity Transmission Company			
Kabarole District Local Government	Uganda Government			
Kansas City, Habitat For Humanity of (MO)	Upper Cumberland Habitat For Humanity (TN)			
Kumi District Local Government	Upper Keys, Habitat For Humanity of the (FL)			
La Plata County, Habitat For Humanity of (CO)	Wichita Habitat For Humanity (KS)			
Namayingo District Local Government	Woodford Habitat For Humanity (KY)			
Mayuge District Local Government	York Habitat For Humanity (PA)			

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

AREA	Association of Real Estate Agents
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
ссо	Certificate of Customary Ownership
DIT	Directorate of Industrial Training
НЕНІ	Habitat For Humanity International
НЕНО	Habitat For Humanity Uganda
HMIS	Health Information Management Systems
ICR	Integrated Community Resilience
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISSBs	Interlocking Stabilized Soil Blocks
мнм	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
PFOH	Parliamentary Forum on Housing
SBS	Street Business School
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
T4T	Technology For Tomorrow
TCIS	Terwilliger Centre of Innovation in Shelter
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
VGH	Vulnerable Group Housing
VIP	Ventilation Improved Pit latrine
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Foreword

Welcome to the Financial Year 2023 Annual Report as we share some of the milestones achieved and the challenges encountered in our commitment to bringing affordable housing to families in partnership with HFHI fraternity such as Southern Santa Barbra. We continue to create innovations that are transforming adequate and affordable housing through technologies such as ISSBs and earthen floors, which reduce the cost of construction by 30%. The cost-sharing approach is now enabling us to build an extra house for every three houses constructed, thus reaching more families. These innovations are part of the showcase during the Annual Housing Symposium where key stakeholders within the housing sector converge to share ideas and knowledge, and discuss strategies and solutions for the sector. As the lead convener for the Symposium, HFHU is establishing strong sector collaboration with partners to shape housing interventions at national level.

As part of national level engagement, HFHU hosted the senior international leadership holding high level discussions with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), The Kingdom of Buganda and Association of Real Estate Agents of Uganda (AREA). Strategic engagements have also involved policy suggestions relating to urban housing space, essential basic services in informal settlements and tenure security. A key milestone during the year is the formation of the Parliamentary Forum on Housing (PFOH) comprised largely of Honourable Members of Parliament from the Infrastructure Committee of Parliament to lead budget and policy advocacy.

HFHU Impact 2027 targets influencing systems changes and building stronger collaborations backed by evidence data for decent housing, essential services, tenure security and skills. Promoting awareness on these issues through training, media, advocacy and partnerships will deliver the impact we desire.

The 2,200 family members impacted directly through housing interventions, 1,008 reached with life resilience skills, and 209,091 who received sensitisation on property rights (=45,000) and WASH awareness (=164,091) underscores the commitment to realise Impact 2027.

HFHU Board of Directors led by Oweek. Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa and the HFHU management led by Robert Otim with support from our partners and staff are committed to seeing "A Uganda where everyone has a decent place to live and thrive".

Robert Otim,
National Director

Oweek. Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa Chairperson, Board of Directors

Introduction

Habitat for Humanity Uganda (HFHU), an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), is dedicated to eliminating housing poverty in Uganda. Since 1982, HFHU as a leading housing organization in Uganda has built, rehabilitated, repaired and improved over 40,000 houses providing simple affordable shelter to over 240,000 family members. This is in response to the continuing housing poverty with a housing deficit of 2.1 million units.

HFHU also supports water and sanitation solutions at household level, schools and community safe water points to promote access to safe and clean drinking water, clean sanitation facilities and general hygiene, given that up to 35% of Uganda population (48,582,334) as of 2023,[1] don't have access to safe water both in rural (33%) and urban (41%) areas[2]. Sanitation solutions target the 17% of the country's population that lacks access to improved sanitation solutions[3].

Capacity building in water source management, land and property rights, youth skills and entrepreneurial skills is offered to both family caregivers and vulnerable out-of-school youths. This contributes to eliminating household poverty, addressing youth skilling and unemployment. The interventions are part of the HFHU Impact 2027 that prioritizes habitability and adequacy in housing, affordability and inclusivity, basic service and tenure security; aligned to the government's efforts in realizing Uganda's Vision 2040, National Development Plan III, National Housing Policy 2016 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)1, 2, 5 and 11; specifically targets 1.4 (1.4.2), 2.3, 5.a (5.a.1 and 5.a.2) and 11.1 (11.1.1). These strategic interventions create impact at community level, within the housing sector level and the society.

[1] Uganda Population 1950-2023 | Macrotrends
[2] Uganda Water Supply Atlas (mwe.go.ug)
[3] Uganda's Water Crisis - Water In Uganda | Water.org

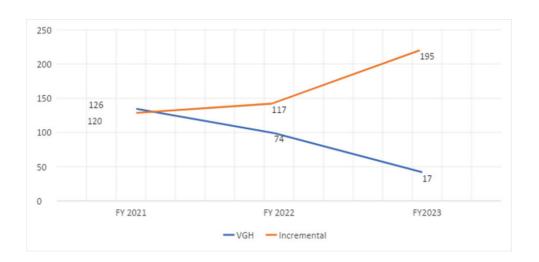


Bringing low-cost housing solutions

HFHU promotes affordable and inclusive housing through partnering with families to access low-cost housing, developing technologies such as the Interlocking Stabilized Soil Blocks (ISSBs) and earthen floors, and building partnerships based on a market systems approach. Housing is considered affordable when its cost whether rent, mortgage payments or construction does not exceed 30% of the household's total annual income. Affordable and inclusive housing for partner families includes a two-bedroom house with lounge, ventilated improved pit latrine and shower stall, and 3,000 litres water tank for rain water harvesting. Houses and facilities with differently abled members are tailored to achieve maximum accessibility.

During the reporting year, 17 partner families benefited from Vulnerable Group Housing (VGH) directly impacting 102 family members and 1,020 indirect beneficiaries of a home including neighbours, visitors, friends and relatives who access the services provided to the target families. Another 195 families accessed housing loans from HFHU partner, Nile Micro Finance, resulting in an increase of 38% from 120 families who received housing loans in FY21. The 195 families that benefited from the scheme impacted on 1,170 individual family members directly and 11,700 indirectly.

The graph shows significant decline in the VGH support from 126 houses in FY21 to 17 houses in FY23. This are attributed to continuous decline in donor funding to developing countries realized in post Covid-19 setting.



Summary of FY22/23 Housing Results



New houses constructed through VGH program. This directly benefited 102 family members and 1,020 indirect beneficiaries of an impact home including neighbours, visitors, friends and relatives who access the services provided to the target families.

Houses improved incrementally through housing loans. This directly impacted on 1,170 individual family members and 11,700 indirect beneficiaries of an impact home including neighbours, visitors, friends and relatives who access the services provided to the target families.



people directly and 85,060 indirectly impacted with life skills training for resilience building



Impact Story

Enabling Decent Living for the Differently Abled

"Doing anything here has been very difficult for me, had it not been for my brother! From trying to exit from and entering the house, to fetching water and then trying to take a bath. It has been like a nightmare", says 18-year-old Omoto Enoka.

Like his elder brother Denis, with disabilities, Enoka uses a wheel chair for mobility around the family home. The two brothers come from a family of ten siblings, three of whom are differently abled.

Denis with full mobility but suffering from a height growth challenge shares the frustration of trying to support his brother around. "Taking him to the latrine and bringing him back is my role. I have to support him move the wheel chair especially pushing the tricycle up and climb into the latrine and the house", he says.

Both Denis and Enoka developed disabilities while at different levels of primary school education and hence dropped out of school. With Denis dropping out in primary 6 and Enoka in primary 4, both can construct short sentences and give brief responses in English language.

Asked about how he feels of the possibility of a new house, Enoka smiles and says, "what do you expect me to say? Look at the floor where I have been sleeping. Look at the latrine we have been using". "I will now be able to go to the latrine, go to bathe and enter the house even when Denis is not around to support me", he adds.

In agreement, Denis says that it will be a great relief not just for Enoka but for all of them. He says the new house has a clean floor, a ramp for the wheel chair for access and each of them will easily move to their rooms without any challenge.

"Now I will be able to concentrate on other small chores and feeding my birds as opposed to moving Enoka around comfortably seated", he jokes.

But to Abeno Betty, their mother and resident of East Cell, Tubur Town Council, Soroti district; getting a new house and latrine with access for the disabled means a lot. "I am so happy that God has remembered my family, given the situation that we have been going through. I can only pray every day that God protects the people who have made this possible for us", says Betty.

Betty's new house has been provided through partnership of HFHU and Southern Santa Barbra HFHI and delivered through the Integrated Community Resilience project.

Betty says she has been struggling to ensure that her two sons live in a decent environment. She had to constantly smear the sleeping area floor with mud and cow dung to reduce on the dust, as well as clean their hut on a daily basis, and also avail them with water for bathing. The single mother says "life will not be the same again".





Betty's old house (above) and the new house (below) in Soroti district

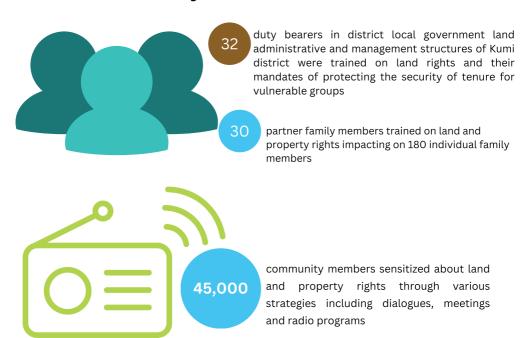
Land tenure security

Recognizing the centrality of land tenure security to housing, HFHU strengthens the land tenure security for poor and vulnerable families for increased access, control and ownership for improved homes and livelihoods. HFHU supports local government land governance and administration through training of Area Land Committees and Model Leaders on land rights and protection. Selected family members and local leaders are trained in property rights, succession planning and inheritance rights, and will making. Community empowerment to participate in policy and localized solutions is conducted through dialogues and radio awareness.

During the reporting year, HFHU trained 130 stakeholders (Kabarole=20, Mayuge=78 and Kumi=32) on land and property rights. The stakeholders include caregivers, Area Land Committee and role model leaders. The purpose of this training and sensitization was to equip them with knowledge and skills to protect and promote the land tenure security for vulnerable groups. By end of FY23, the Area Land Committee in Kumi received 30 applications for Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCO) from the target communities.

A total of 45,000 community members were reached with information about land and property rights through two radio Talk shows and eight spot messages.

Summary Results for FY22/23



Building Skills Capacity for Youth

Habitat for Humanity Uganda is responding to youth unemployment rate which is currently estimated at 13.3%. Surveys by the International Labour Organization (ILO) indicate that up to 92% of the youth who can find employment are within informal sector with limited or no skills, tools and livelihood security.

Through community-led consultation and self-evaluation, HFHU helps youth identify their potential and ability for undertaking specific market driven skills training. In partnership with accredited training institutions, local artisan and Rotarians, youth undertake trainings in Carpentry & Joinery, Bricklaying & Concrete Practice; Tailoring & Garment Cutting; Catering; Welding & Metal Fabrication; Hair Dressing; and Motorcycle Mechanics. Innovative approaches to training through the Street Business School (SBS) and Youth Hubs along with new housing techniques such as the use of ISSBs is revolutionising youth uptake of skills. The Youth Hubs help youth acquire skills from a centralized point and provide trained youth an opportunity to expand their skills and collaborate. Using ISSBs technology brings eco-friendly benefits. Youth undertaking tailoring skills training in a practical session

During FY22-23, a total of 152 youths graduated in various skills, 96 of whom additionally received financial literacy skills. Overall, there was 57% increase in the youth graduating indicating the demand for market facing skills.



Youth undertaking tailoring skills in a practical session

Basic Essential Services Access

Sustainable basic services are provided as part of community empowerment and system strengthening for expanding equitable access to water supply, hygiene and sanitation facilities and information, urban waste management and renewable energy housing solutions. Access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services is the most effective and fundamental prerequisite to reduce many infectious diseases. Similarly, 10% reduction of infection globally can be achieved by enhancing access to reliable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services.

At community level, HFHU supports establishment of motorised solar-powered deep wells, boreholes and water harvesting systems for schools and households. Inclusive and gender sensitive VIP latrines at schools are intended to address issues of high efficiency ratios of latrines, inclusivity and gender inequality. WASH promotion activities conducted at schools and community highlight the importance of using clean water, hand washing, disease prevention and menstrual hygiene.

Kadami community in Kumi district in celebration as they receive the water system from Habitat for Humanity Uganda.

During the year, HFHU constructed 5 water points including 3 boreholes and 2 motorized solar powered deep-water wells in Kumi and Mayuge districts. This is directly benefiting 1,500 households and 9,000 individual household members. A total of 1,091 community members received community awareness outreaches including community dialogues, meetings and sensitizations, while an estimated 164,091 people (10% of the population of the target districts) were reached through radio awareness. HFHU trained 900 girls, sensitized 150 community members and distributed menstrual hygiene management kits to 523 girls across the districts of Kabarole, Namayingo, Kumi and Soroti.

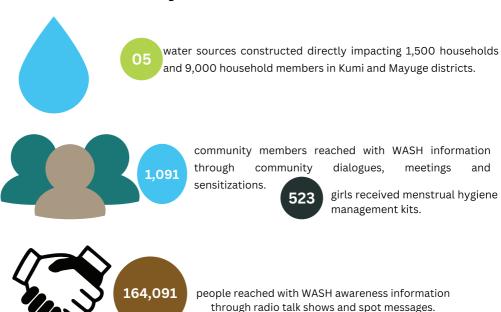


Residents of
Kadami
community in
Kumi district
in celebration
as they
receive the
water system
from Habitat
for Humanity
Uganda

Fig 3. People supported with MHM services



Summary Results for FY22/23



Building Influence and Impact

HFHU as a key actor in the housing sector in partnership with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) and key stakeholders convenes the Uganda National Housing Symposium annually. The Symposium brings together all housing stakeholders in the country and beyond to collaborate, co-create, learn and adapt solutions aimed at transforming Uganda's housing sector. Policy makers, experts, academicians and housing service providers are increasingly participating in the Symposium and generating ideas, actions and solutions intended to promote affordable housing

As a key stakeholder, HFHU participates in various policy discussions and reviews that relate to housing, water and sanitation, land tenure security, urbanisation and settlement. This participation contributes to national wide efforts to influence policies and systems, strengthen local capacity and improve awareness to housing issues.

During the year, HFHU successfully held the Uganda National Housing Symposium that brought together over 250 participants from nearly 40 agencies to share progress and challenges faced in the housing sector. HFHU also launched the Home Equals Campaign marking its entry into urban programming.

As part of strengthening collaboration, HFHU was privileged to host the Senior Leadership team of Habitat for Humanity International led by the Chief Executive Officer, along with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Vice President for Africa region. The team held strategic meetings with MLHUD, Buganda Kingdom, and the HFHU board of directors before launching the eco-friendly Urban Low-cost Model House at Kyasira Home of Hope. Another house was handed to Gloria and Brenda in Hoima, who became the youngest ever partner family in HFHU's 40 years in Uganda.



Impact Story

Gloria and Brenda: Uganda's Youngest Partner Family



Habitat for Humanity Uganda marked its 40 years of operation in Uganda by having the youngest partners to receive a house in the organization's history. The young partners are 13-month-old previously co-joined twins who underwent successful surgery at Mulago National Referral Hospital. The twins belong to Moses and Hellen, who in their early twenties are peasant farmers from Bulinda cell, a rural community in Hoima district, Central Uganda.

The twin's mother, Hellen was chased away from her parents' home after becoming pregnant and had to drop out of school in grade 9. She faced a challenging pregnancy and gave birth by caesarean at the hospital in their town. However, it was realized the babies were co-joined, and thus referred to Mulago hospital for further assistance. After successful surgery, the children could not return home due to lack of a decent shelter.

"Sometime back we separated co-joined twins from Kole district and one of them immediately died of malaria once they were back home. We learned the lessons the hard way. We now involve the social workers to assess the environment and devise means as necessary", said Dr. John Sekabira, a paediatric surgeon, regarding the discharge of the twins.

The house was constructed through local contributions with support from the Rotarians who raised over 80% of the cost for the four roomed house. An improved pit latrine with a shower shade and a 3,000-litre water tank for rain water harvesting was also provided.

Hellen, with excitement said that with the new home, she will be able to raise her daughters in a clean and safe environment. She added "we appeal to everyone to support Habitat for Humanity's efforts to continue providing decent housing for those in need".

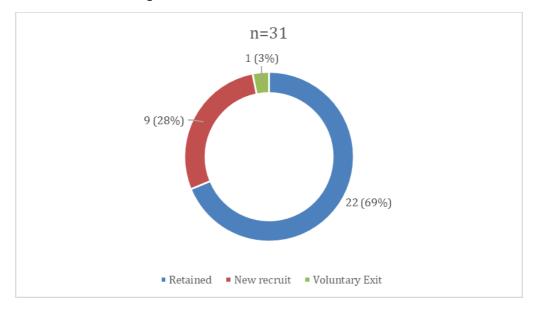
Building Sustainability

In a quest to enhance sustainability, HFHU is strengthening both its human and financial resources to achieve the four strategic program priorities set for the Impact 2027. Improving individual and organizational effectiveness, developing a diverse workforce with the leadership skills and knowledge required for general management and coordinated resource mobilisation are critical to building HFHU's sustainability.

The current Human Resource composition cover 39% staff in program, 35% finance and operation, 10% HR/ Executive office, 6% MEAL and Communication and Advocacy, and 3% for Business Development and Donor Relations.

In FY22/23, 42% of the employees attained skills enhancement trainings in Strategy Execution and Public Leadership, HR Analytics and Talent Management, Project Planning and Management, Finance Management, AutoCAD2D, and Gender Mainstreaming. Voluntary staff turnover was 3%, new recruits 28% and 69% staff retained from the previous financial year. The (28%) 9 positions were filled in FY23 through internal and external sources (recruitment firms) using robust selection processes.

HFHU prioritized raising resources from a diverse stream including in-country resource development through Decent Living Campaign as well as responding to donor calls for proposals. HFHU raised in-country resource development through global mission fund, tithe and donor funding.





Ronald Ongopa (left) from the HFHI supporting staff during a Strategic Planning Session at the National Office



Robert Otim, the HFHU National Director addressing staff during the Annual Staff Meeting

Financial Position for FY23

Habitat For Humanity Uganda (A Company Limited by Guarantee) Annual report and financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		2023	2022
	Notes	UShs	UShs
CAPITAL EMPLOYED			
Accumulated funds		1,385,008,632	1,466,490,386
		1,385,008,632	1,466,490,386
REPRESENTED BY			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	1,211,682,195	614,012,484
Institutional Loans	4	74,999,997	197,100,934
		1,286,682,192	811.113.418
Current assets			
Home improvement Loans	5	17	248,653
Receivables	6	336,357,530	205,456,772
Cash and cash equivalents	7	2,765,352,450	1,876,439,913
		3,101,709,997	2,082,145,338
Current liabilities			
Payables & accruals	9	266,020,780	263,763,963
Deferred income	10	2.737.362,780	1,163,004,407
		3,003,383,560	1,426,768,370
Net current assets		98,326,437	655,376,968
		1,385,008,632	1,466,490,386

The financial statements on pages 8 to 20 were approved for issue by the Board on2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Man lo

DIRECTOR

The accounting policies and notes to the financial statements on pages 12 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Report of the independent auditors - pages 5-7.

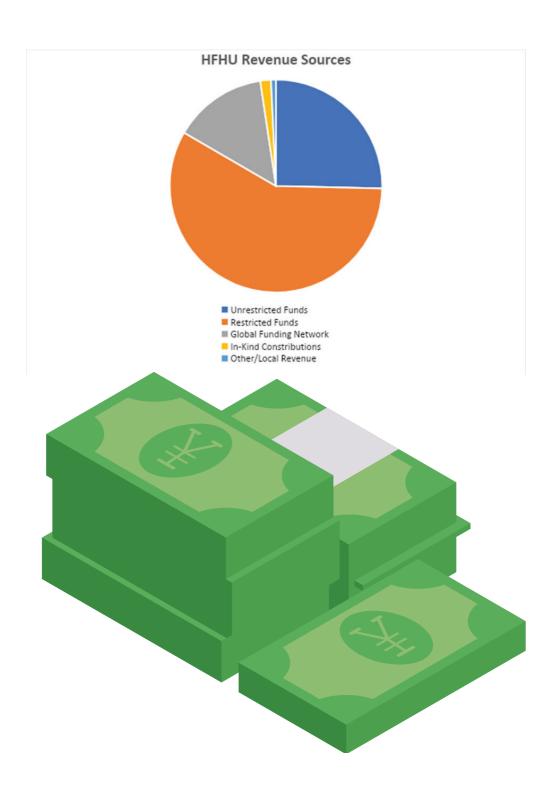
Habitat For Humanity Uganda (A Company Limited by Guarantee) Annual report and financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

		2023	2022
INCOMES	Notes	UShs	UShs
Loan Income			
	1(a)	59,989,228	52,710,866
Grants from HFHI	1(b)	5,452,616,106	3,340,924,296
Grant Income from in-country Constributions	1(c)	107,367,905	54,999,990
Transfers from GFN	1(d)	932,336,520	141,569,277
Other income	2	128,978,840	47.192.903
Total Incomes		6,681,288,599	3,637,397,332
EXPENDITURE		-,,,	3,037,337,332
Compensation & benefits	(i)	(1,281,987,889)	(722,655,029)
Administrative costs	(ii)	(715,952,003)	(203,024,055)
Construction & training costs	(11)	(4,764,829,461)	(3,274,384,537)
Total expenditure	(-7		(4,200,063,621)
Deficit for the year		(81,480,754)	(562,666,289)

The accounting policies and notes to the financial statements on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Report of the independent auditors - pages 5-7.



Impact Story

Esther: her six children, simple hut and their smiles

Aguti Esther is 35 years and a mother of six; three boys and three girls. In her compound are two mud and wattle grass thatched huts—one serving as the main house and the other a kitchen. Esther and her six children shared one hut. The grass on the huts is scattered as termites like to devour it. Esther says, they have to replace the grass at least twice a year. Esther's husband does not stay at home and comes after two to three months. Because of this absence, Esther takes on the responsibility of taking care of the family including harvesting grass to rethatch the huts.

Esther says it would take her about two weeks to gather grass from the swamp for each of the houses. "And by the way, it was not just me and the six children sharing the hut. When my husband returned, we became seven; then plus the chicken", Esther says. She adds that her children used to scratch their bodies due to bird fleas.

"I had been assessed before but was not successful. This time round, it was God", Esther remembers.

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity Uganda and the Foster Family Foundation, Esther has a new permanent house. Asked how she feels, she raises both hands in the air, "Let God take the glory. This is a dream come true".

Esther calls her house a miracle. "I am very happy and may God bless all hands that have done this house. Everybody who has had a hand including those I will not be able to meet like the people from Foster family", she says.

"I have got a strong house and my children have a strong place to call home. I hope even my grandchildren will know that their grandmother stayed here", she says.

Esther confides that other women admire her for the kind of home she now has but to her, it is all about God.

Esther says, "We have worked together as a family to support the building of this house. My husband had returned and was digging the latrine pit as I helped pull out the soil".

It can't go without mentioning that this is the first pit latrine that Esther and her family is having. The lack of a latrine for Esther's family created other problems on the village

"Every neighbour used to cry about my children going to their gardens as the toilet which caused a lot of tension with my neighbours".

Obo Ben, one of the immediate neighbours to Esther and the local council chairperson, says he received several complaints from the village regarding Esther's family and their lack of latrine.

"At one time the local council leadership had decided to detain her for lack of latrine but again when we looked at her situation and where she slept, we simply sympathised with her", says Ben.

"I can't wait to enter my new house. I will be able to just close my eyes and wake up in the morning."

She laughs loudly at the thought of having her first latrine and shower stall.

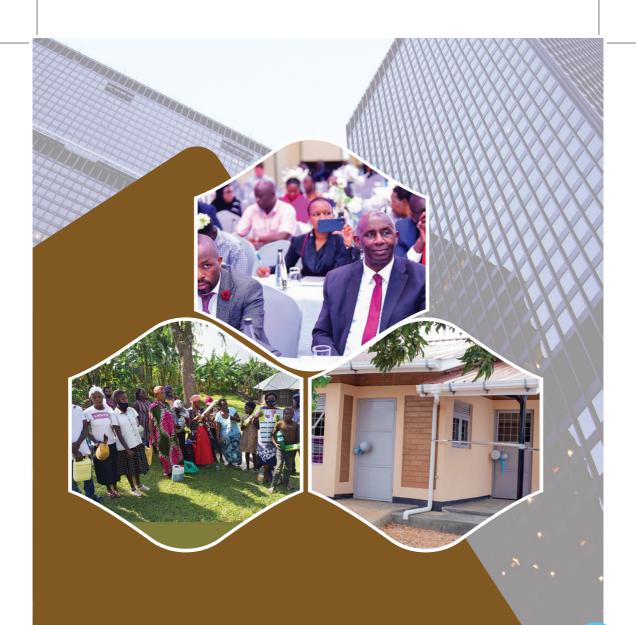
Ben has pledged 10 fruit seedlings to Esther so that she can beautify her compound and also has tree shades at home.











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