

Impact Report 2023



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 Left: RICE-West Nile run an outreach clinic in Iyete village in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement

Chair's welcome



Toby Aykroyd
Chair of Trustees

CHASE Africa has come a long way since a small group sat round a kitchen table in Somerset, 14 years ago, to discuss the vision of CHASE Africa's founder, Robin Witt, for a community-based healthcare and family planning initiative in hitherto rural areas that are often marginalised.

Since then, propelled by its first Director, Henry Pomeroy, and his highly able successor, Harriet Gordon-Brown, it has delivered well over a million services through a network that has expanded to encompass 14 partner organisations – in Kenya, Uganda and shortly extending to Tanzania.

2023 has seen another year of significant growth, with income rising to £960,000 thanks yet again to the hugely appreciated generosity of our donors.

Focus has been on capacity building for CHASE Africa itself, with a strengthened staff team, an upgraded communications strategy and the development of a new website. This in turn has helped deliver a 14% increase in funding for our partners, supplemented by assistance with financial management, fundraising and exchange of best technical practice.

The success of our approach is further emphasised by an external evaluation during the year. This reported a high level of effectiveness across a range of targeted criteria: fostering knowledge, transforming attitudes and engendering behavioural change. Results included tangible improvements in health outcomes, reduced school dropout rates, and proactive measures to diminish societal issues such as early marriage and gender-based violence.

All of which lays a strong basis for the next exciting phase in CHASE Africa's development as we aim to replicate the projects we support through increasingly extensive partnerships. The challenge ahead in sub-Saharan Africa to improve livelihoods and personal empowerment in a healthy, natural environment is formidable, but CHASE Africa has the ability to make a real difference.

So, it is with hope and enthusiasm that during 2024 I will be handing over the role of Chair, which I have been honoured to fill since CHASE Africa's inception. Recruitment for my successor is under way. I could not have worked with a nicer, more wholeheartedly dedicated and able group of individuals. They have created the wherewithal for a fascinating and highly valuable journey ahead.

 Below: The Maa Trust runs an outreach clinic in Ropile





CEO's welcome

Harriet Gordon-Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the Impact Report for 2023, a year of remarkable growth and achievement for CHASE Africa. With our newly acquired charitable status as a CIO, effective from January 1st, 2023, we were thrilled to witness a substantial increase in our income, reaching close to £1 million.

This was made possible by several new, multi-year grants, alongside ongoing support from numerous existing supporters – both trusts and foundations, and individual donors. Obtaining multi-year grants is one of our strategic objectives for more sustainable growth. In accordance with the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice), our 2023 income includes grants for 2024 expenditure. These multi-year commitments help put us on a more secure financial footing and enable us to start the new financial year with some guaranteed funding for programme delivery.

The External Evaluation we commissioned was another milestone. Alongside the positive feedback on our impact, I was particularly pleased to read that all the local partners visited and interviewed expressed a strong desire to continue their partnership with CHASE Africa. Their feedback highlights the invaluable nature of our partner network, which fosters cross-pollination among local partners, leverages synergies and contributes significantly to collective goals. This was a wonderful affirmation of the relationship that CHASE Africa has developed with its local partners, and a testament to the collaborative nature of our approach.

One of our strategic aims continues to be sharing our experience to support community-based conservation organisations to integrate a health programme.

A highlight of my year was visiting potential partners in northern Tanzania. There was a huge appetite from all the organisations I visited to add a health component to their work to address the needs expressed by the communities they are working with. We are excited to be starting our first project in Tanzania in 2024.

As we look forward, we aim to increase our impact, reaching more communities and changing the lives of more women and girls by enhancing their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and their ability to access quality health services.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of all our supporters. None of what we achieve would be possible without your help. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of my colleagues at CHASE Africa and the staff from our local partners, who regularly go above and beyond to support the communities they serve.

 **Right: One of RCRA Uganda's Backpack Nurses, Lhuhalha, discusses family planning with a couple at their home in Busara village, Uganda**



Highlights

Here are some of the key successes from CHASE Africa's local partners in 2023.

These successes have been made possible because of our donors' generous support.

Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment-West Nile started a three-year project in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement to address the combined challenges of climate change, food security, environmental degradation and poor access to health information and services.

Rwenzori Centre for Research and Advocacy Uganda reached thousands of people living in remote communities in the Rwenzori Mountains despite excessive amounts of heavy rainfall creating worsening road conditions as a result of climate change.

The Maa Trust reached thousands of people with information at community dialogues, youth and men's forums, that shift behaviours and attitudes towards Sexual and Reproductive Health, as well as providing thousands with healthcare and family planning services.

Community Health Volunteers continues to reach many thousands of people through regular outreach clinics as well as developing a more robust and structured Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights programme for adolescents and young people in the area.

Kalyet Afya Foundation founded by local nurses, worked closely throughout the year with the Ministry of Health to bring monthly outreach clinics to some of the most under-served areas in the county.

Dandelion Africa made great strides in increasing knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and services among adults and young people through Community Health Workers and Youth Peer Providers, as well as providing health services to thousands in Baringo County.

Mount Kenya Trust reached thousands of people with information and family planning services, as well as scaling up our successful pilot adolescent programme in Meru County to prevent teen pregnancies and reduce rates of school drop-out.

Communities Health Africa Trust exceeded expectations in their provision of both information and health services by reaching new, underserved communities living around the Tana River.

Save the Elephants adopted a permanent community health programme following a successful pilot partnership with CHASE Africa.

South Rift Association of Land Owners expanded their community health project following our successful pilot partnership, reaching more people with information and services. More women are delivering in health clinics and more men are supporting their wives to access family planning.

Big Life Foundation started a new three-year project to scale their work to improve the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of communities in Kajiado, including activities to reach young people both in and out of school.

Our impact in 2023

Our vision is healthy, empowered communities living sustainably in their natural environment. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to provide more people than ever with vital healthcare and access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and information.

Here is how your support made a difference...

137,031

family planning and other Sexual and Reproductive Health services delivered,

an increase of

31% from 2022.

Over

450,000

attendances at information and awareness-raising sessions

672,952

condoms distributed



Knowledge and skills of the health workforce improved through training, including the launch of training which engaged doctors and nurses on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



193

Community Health Workers

and

54

Youth Peer Providers

supported and mentored by our local partners

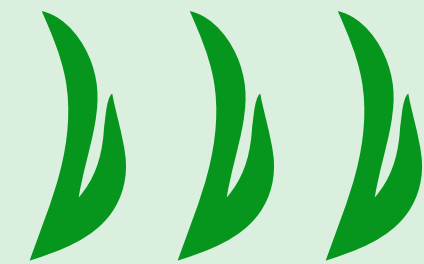
Right: A women's dialogue led by Big Life Foundation



Reduction in immunisation defaulters through reaching more people at outreach clinics and proactively tracing defaulters

144,391

additional (non Sexual and Reproductive Health) health services delivered



Enhanced food security through kitchen gardens and climate-smart agriculture across three projects in Uganda

External evaluation report

Report finds meaningful impact across CHASE Africa's programmes

CHASE Africa commissioned an external evaluation by [Progress Inc.](#), a global organisation with a team in Kenya. The findings for this external evaluation were collected through discussions with our partner organisations, individual community members, school health patrons, headteachers and local Ministry of Health staff.

Overall, the evaluation was an affirmation that the work we support increases knowledge, transforms attitudes and changes behaviour, leading to improved health outcomes, reduced school dropouts and proactive measures against issues such as early marriage and gender-based violence.

The report particularly highlighted how critical the fact that all the community-rooted organisations we partner with leverage their deep community-tied, contextual knowledge and existing infrastructure to deliver successful healthcare programmes. ➤



 A Community Health Worker with clients at an outreach clinic organised by RICE-West Nile in Pawor sub county, Uganda.

The evaluation also identified a number of successful strategies that CHASE Africa's partners have employed including the positive impact of the term 'spacing' for family planning, emphasising male involvement, the use of community dialogues, leveraging religious and opinion leaders within communities, engaging traditional birth attendants, collaborating with the Ministry of Health, and effectively combining community dialogues with outreach clinics to change attitudes and improve access.




Increase in knowledge

The report found the knowledge and confidence of women, both young and old, has substantially increased, particularly concerning family planning and its side effects. Many attribute this success to the introduction of family planning in a culturally sensitive manner by local project staff and by Community Health Workers.

"I've acquired the knowledge to protect myself from unplanned pregnancies and understand the importance of family planning. Furthermore, it has enriched our understanding of the importance of education."

Community member from Kenya

 Above: Community Health Workers Taasi Uzial and Ihuhalha with clients at an outreach clinic run by RCRA Uganda

Change in attitudes

The evaluation testified that there had been a profoundly positive transformation in the perception of sexual and reproductive health, among both men and women. It was noted that more women felt free to discuss sexual and reproductive healthcare issues and many more men were accompanying their wives in the clinics for family planning.


"The programme has encouraged spouses to come to mutual agreements on family planning, reducing conflicts. The perception that having many children is a symbol of wealth has also started to change."

The Maa Trust

Another important finding identified that similar positive changes are benefiting wider health issues.

"Back when I distributed condoms, some individuals would mistakenly associate them solely with sex work. People now recognise that condoms play a vital role in sexual health, offering protection against both diseases and unplanned pregnancies."

A Community Health Worker from Kenya

 Below: A women's dialogue organised by Big Life Foundation




Change in practice

The report found evidence of positive change around the health-seeking behaviour of community members. This was particularly evident in the increase in the uptake in family planning services, a reduction of immunisation defaulters and an increase in patients attending appointments at healthcare facilities following referrals.

It was noted that an increase in uptake of family planning services had wider benefits for women.

"Most women are now well spacing their children. Child spacing has helped us to be able to do other economic activities to get money. Therefore, family planning has helped most mothers to do productive work but also manage to take their children to school."

A mother from Kenya

 Above: Adolescent girls and young mothers participating in a dialogue organised by RICE-West Nile

Improved support for young people

We are pleased to share that the report found that our Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health programmes are highly effective. School authorities interviewed reported that those schools who had initiated health clubs supported by CHASE Africa had seen a decrease in dropout rates and asserted that student rights education had produced an increase in confidence of children who were better able to assert their rights. This empowered students to make informed decisions and distinguish between right and wrong.

"When you go home and find your father, mother, and an older man discussing your marriage, you must think critically and use the knowledge from the Child Rights Committee. We simply make an excuse to fetch water, and then we run to inform the chief."

Student from Kenya

"In summary, CHASE Africa's initiatives have had a profound impact, not only in effecting positive changes at the community level but also in providing substantial support to its network of partners. The organisation's unique approach involves strategic collaboration with partners deeply embedded in the communities they serve, an emphasis on integration principles, and a commitment to enhancing the capacity of partners, regardless of their size."

Progress Inc.

Supporting women to lead healthy lives

Enabling women to lead healthier lives remains the primary focus of CHASE Africa's work. We believe that improving the health of women not only improves their lives and wellbeing, it is essential for creating healthy communities and also contributes to healthier environments.

Throughout 2023 we provided health information to communities and delivered 137,031 Sexual and Reproductive Health services, including family planning, primarily to women and girls.

Right: RICE-West Nile run a women's and youth outreach session on reproductive health and family planning in Yumbe District, Uganda





Providing information and creating awareness of health issues is an essential part of CHASE Africa's programmes.

Mary is an example of thousands of women who have participated in community dialogues across all of our local partner organisations. Mary believes that these dialogues not only informed her community about different health services available, but also provided a space for people to talk openly, generating trust between generations and families.

"I could speak candidly about issues affecting my health and family"

Mary from Kenya


Mary, a 19-year-old mother of one-year-old twins, never imagined she would be able to speak with her mother-in-law about family planning and other sensitive health matters. Yet, she reports that many women in Sagalla, Kenya, are now able to discuss these topics openly.

"My mother-in-law is a Community Health Worker and possesses a wealth of knowledge. However, discussing these topics with me was challenging due to their uncommon nature in our community.

I was so surprised we talked about sex at the same community dialogue session when my mother-in-law was present. This newfound openness made me closer to her, and I could speak candidly about issues affecting my health and family. I now believe that my mother-in-law is better equipped to guide me on marital issues compared to before, when I sought advice from peers who often provided misleading and unhelpful suggestions.

With the outreach clinics and community dialogues, the stigma reduced, and our perceptions about services in our dispensary have changed. We can openly talk about family planning during forums, such as community barazas (public meetings)."


[Read Mary's full story on our website.](#)

 **Left: Mary hopes to become a Youth Peer Provider in her community**



As well as CHASE Africa's focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health, we also contributed to strengthening existing health systems to ensure that women can access better-quality services.

When our local partner in Kenya, [SORALO](#), informed CHASE Africa that an insecure power source in their local health facilities regularly led to some women giving birth at night by the light of mobile phone torches, CHASE Africa responded by contributing funds to install solar power at the clinic. This has enabled the lights in the facility to be working when needed.

 **Above: SORALO's clinic with solar power funded by CHASE Africa**



Several community groups, including Konya Women's group, were supported to unlock the untapped potential of agricultural enterprise

Many of CHASE Africa's local partners complement their health programmes by providing opportunities to women to sustain the health of their families.

Our local partners provide training in diversified livelihoods, business skills and village savings groups (groups of people who can pool their savings in order to have a source of funds they can access). These efforts combine to give women financial security, alongside knowledge in sustainable farming and nutrition.

One example of how we have supported women and their families to thrive comes from our local partner, RICE-West Nile, who work with rural fishing communities that depend on the River Nile in northern Uganda for their livelihoods.

Alongside healthcare provision, CHASE Africa funds RICE-West Nile to provide training in farming techniques, alongside business management, and to support groups of people to establish kitchen gardens and create small enterprises.

In 2023, RICE-West Nile provided additional training to several community groups, including Konya Women's group from Payila Village. The group of 30 women initially came together to support each other through group savings.

The training supported the women to shift away from a reliance on fishing. Sadly, fishing does not provide an adequate income for most households in the region. Overfishing has reduced the numbers of fish and there is a risk of extinction of some species.

Through the training, the group learned that, contrary to popular belief in the area, sandy soil does not hinder tomato cultivation. With the support of RICE-West Nile, the group rented land and established a tomato garden close to the river, where the soil proved to be more fertile and moist.

Setting aside dedicated time every Tuesday for group work, the group unlocked the untapped potential of agricultural enterprise. During the festive season of 2023, the group was delighted to harvest a lucrative crop including tomatoes and eggplant that significantly increased each group member's household income.

 Above: The RICE-West Nile team with the Konya Women's Group in their tomato garden

Empowering adolescents in East Africa

Tackling Sexual and Reproductive Health challenges for a healthier future


How do our programmes support young people to realise their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights?

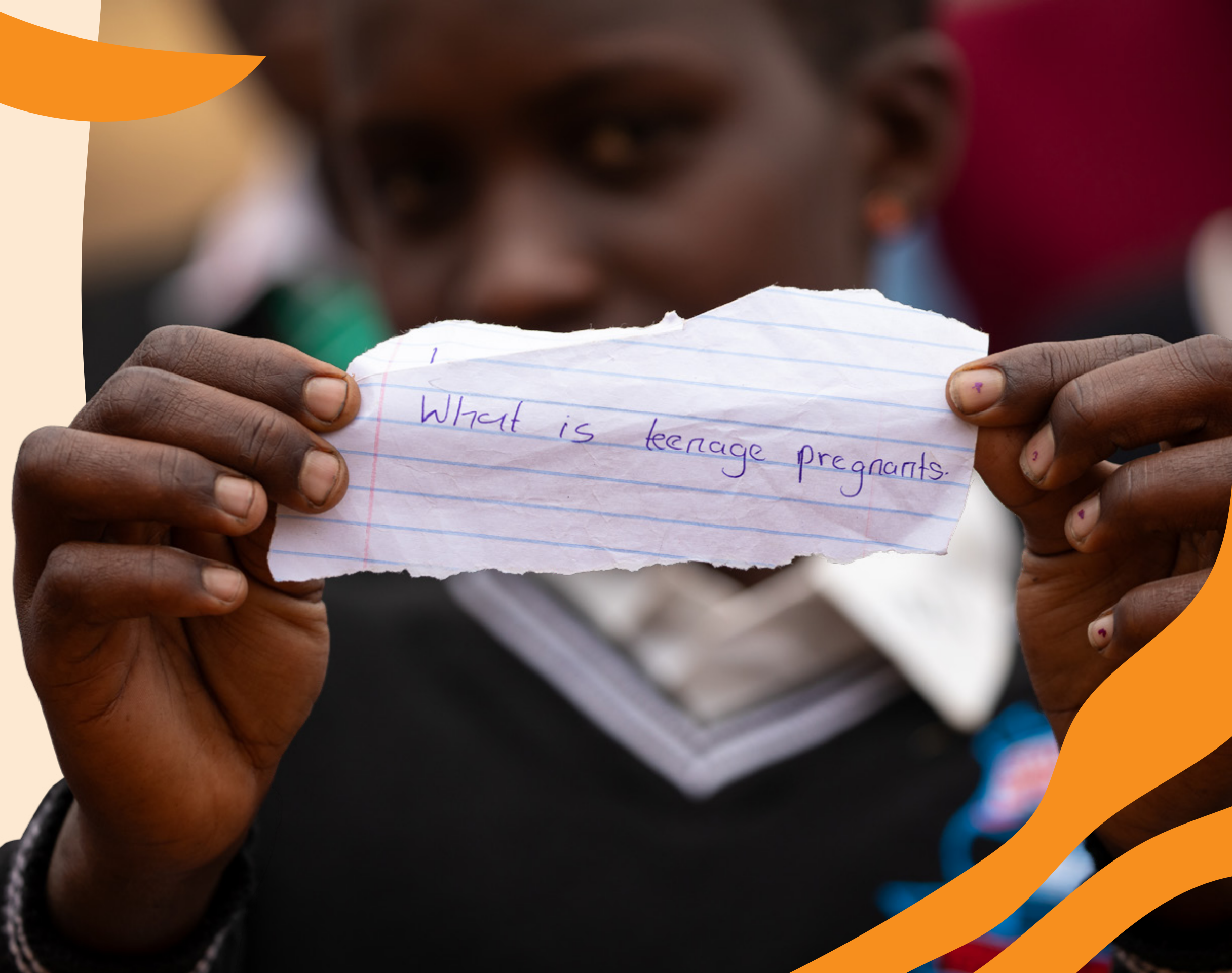
Our local partners are best placed to advise on ways to tackle barriers to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR), which means we work at three different levels: individual, family and community, and through service delivery.

At individual level, we ensure girls are informed about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, contraception methods, and improve their ability to make decisions that affect their bodies and health in male-dominated cultures.

At family and community level, we improve the knowledge and attitudes of family and community leaders on ASRHR. We also support parents, teachers and community leaders to create an enabling environment to provide information to adolescents on ASRHR.

At health service delivery level, we train health service providers and enhance their skills, so they do not stigmatise, judge, disregard confidentiality or completely refuse to provide specific services.

 **Right: Children write anonymous questions to discuss at a child rights club led by Big Life Foundation**
Photo: Joshua Clay



77%

of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa are among women aged 15-24

Stillbirths and newborn deaths are

50%

higher among infants of adolescent mothers than among infants of women aged 20-29 years

Health challenges facing young people in sub-Saharan Africa

Adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poorest Sexual and Reproductive Health outcomes.¹

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has the highest burden of adolescent HIV globally, with adolescent girls and women aged 15-24 disproportionately affected, accounting for 77% of new infections in 2022.²

The prevalence of adolescent pregnancy, unsafe abortion, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence including female genital mutilation (FGM) is also higher in SSA compared to anywhere else in the world.

Teenage mothers aged 15-19 are more likely to die in pregnancy than mothers aged 20-24, with neonatal complications and even death 50% more likely among adolescents.³

HIV and pregnancy-related complications are the leading causes of death among adolescents in East Africa.⁴

 **Right: The Maa Trust's Youth Peer Providers**
Photo: Nick Spollin

¹Adolescent sexual and reproductive health research in sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review of substantive focus, research volume, geographic distribution and Africa-led inquiry, *BMJ Glob Health*. 2021.

²Fact Sheet, *Global HIV statistics*, USAID 2023.

³Young, Vulnerable and Unattended: What we know about adolescent maternal and newborn health and opportunities for learning, *Save The Children*, 2024.

⁴Adolescent sexual and reproductive health research in sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review of substantive focus, research volume, geographic distribution and Africa-led inquiry, *BMJ Glob Health*. 2021.



What we achieved in 2023

By prioritising the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of girls in East Africa, we support their development into healthy, empowered adolescents who contribute to their communities and economies. Not only a moral imperative but a critical investment into the region's future.

Equipping young people with knowledge

In 2023, 174,867 under-19s attended our local partners' sessions that provide age-appropriate and culturally sensitive information on ASRHR. The sessions included activities both in and out of schools, such as sports tournaments, youth-focused dialogues and interactions with our Youth Peer Providers.

For example, Meru County in Kenya has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Kenya. Our local partner, **Mount Kenya Trust**, launched an ASRHR programme in Meru County at the end of 2022 to tackle this issue. After conducting a survey which revealed very low levels of knowledge and many misconceptions on ASRHR amongst adolescents, Mount Kenya Trust trained 50 students as Youth Peer Providers and 20 teachers in ASRHR guidance and counselling in 10 local schools.

The Youth Peer Providers and teachers have been running weekly sessions in their schools using an Adolescent Reproductive Health and Life Skills Curriculum, which was adapted and distributed by Mount Kenya Trust. In collaboration with trained counsellors and nurses, the sessions reached 3,697 students in 2023 with information on puberty, relationships, pregnancy, STIs and unsafe abortion.



Engaging the wider community


We engaged communities in awareness-raising events such as dialogues to challenge and change harmful norms and practices, promoting gender equality and empowerment of girls.

For example, in 2023, Mount Kenya Trust started hosting meetings for parents, Nyumba Kumi leaders (community leadership), chiefs and sub-chiefs, boda-boda (motorbike taxi) drivers, and county administration. These people yield influence and can change attitudes and practices among their community members towards sexual and reproductive health.

Youth-friendly delivery of sexual health services

We trained 42 clinicians, who are based at clinics run by the local Ministry of Health, so healthcare professionals have the skills, knowledge and confidence in providing non-judgemental ASRHR services to adolescents. We improve service delivery by ensuring clinics are open at suitable hours and locations, respecting confidentiality and consent, and offer a full range of Sexual and Reproductive Health services including contraceptive options, STI testing and treatment.

For example, in 2020 our local partner, RCRA Uganda, set up an Adolescent Health Centre which has served the local community. During 2023, for example, it provided 8,039 Sexual and Reproductive Health services to young people aged 10-19. A social enterprise was launched where girls make reusable sanitary pads to earn income as well as contribute to free sanitary pads in schools. A young mothers' music dance, and drama production group formed at the centre which supports RCRA Uganda to share information about sexual health during community dialogue events.

 **Top: Mount Kenya Trust runs weekly ASRHR sessions in schools**
Below: Young mothers attend an information session run by SORALO

8,039

Sexual and Reproductive Health services provided to young people aged 10-19*

3,697

students reached with information on puberty, relationships, pregnancy, STIs and unsafe abortion**

*at RCRA Uganda's Adolescent Health Centre
 **as part of Mount Kenya Trust's adolescent health project




From strength to strength

The CHASE Africa Partner Network is made up of organisations supported by CHASE Africa. The network has become a powerful and valuable forum for sharing best practices and experience, through exchange visits, webinars and an annual CHASE Africa Partner Conference.

CHASE Africa Partner Conference 2023

In 2023, the conference was held in May, at Limuru, Kenya. We were joined by 13 CHASE Africa partner organisations from Kenya and Uganda, as well as three prospective partners from Tanzania. It was an opportunity for learning and knowledge exchange.

The richness of the discussion was shaped by the partners sharing their experiences across different regions, in different contexts and with different groups of people. >

 Left: Attendees take part in group work at the CHASE Africa Partner Conference



“The CHASE Africa Partner Conference has been exceptionally useful. I am learning so many new things from different partners in different parts of the country.”

Laila Kassam
Mount Kenya Trust

The conference provides time and space for the network’s members to deepen their knowledge on particular issues. Members request the topics and they are presented either by a member of the network or, when necessary, by a specialist.

At the 2023 conference we invited various expert speakers from organisations including Femme International, The Reproductive Health Network Kenya, Gertrude’s Hospital and Habitat for Humanity. The guest speakers deepened participants’ knowledge and understanding of critical healthcare issues and safeguarding challenges.

Another expert, Macharia Karanja from the Orchid Project, ran a session on female genital mutilation (FGM). Local partners were provided with detailed information about the harmful practice and clear guidance about what their frontline workers should know in terms of associated risks.

Although Kenya banned the practice of FGM in 2001, the Orchid Project presented statistics showing that the practice is continuing across East Africa. The next step in supporting local partner organisations to abolish the practice of FGM is for CHASE Africa to partner with a funder who would like to support the network.

“I have really loved meeting and interacting with partners. We have exchanged many ideas about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, family planning, advocacy, and issues to do with FGM. We appreciate this opportunity and will now be able to apply in our areas.”

Joel Lekeni
Big Life Foundation



Sharing knowledge and improving learning

In 2023 our local partners identified common themes to support their organisational development. These included: safeguarding, strengthening youth and adolescents’ Sexual and Reproductive Health programmes, and improving fundraising skills.

CHASE Africa provided specific capacity-building grants to address these areas of growth. We funded local partners to run organisation-led initiatives, and we recruited local expert consultants to provide technical advice on a particular issue.

Two consultants were recruited during 2023 to work directly with selected partners to strengthen their systems. One consultant led a deep dive into project-level safeguarding risks. Another designed a monitoring and evaluation system specifically for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health projects.

Once the work is complete, the learning will be shared with all partners within the CHASE Africa partner network.



🕒 Above: CHASE Africa staff and local partners at the 2023 partner conference

Findings from CHASE Africa's external evaluation report 2023

Progress Inc. found three key approaches set CHASE Africa's approach to partnership apart

1

Firstly, CHASE Africa stands out by exclusively collaborating with local partners that are deeply embedded in the local communities they serve, ensuring an intimate understanding of the local context and building trust.

2

Secondly, CHASE Africa's approach involves strengthening the capacity of local partners, irrespective of their size.

3

Thirdly, CHASE Africa's partnership model is characterised by a collaborative approach.

"Alongside the financial support that partners receive to implement programmes, CHASE Africa's partners commented that they particularly value the opportunities for knowledge exchange and learning that the CHASE Africa Network provides through exchange visits, the annual conference, sharing of materials, templates and resources, as well as supporting their organisational capacity building."

Progress Inc.

Exploring the intersection of human and environmental health in rural areas

Over many years CHASE Africa has had great success integrating community health projects into the work of community-based conservation organisations. Both conservation organisations and communities value the benefits, which has encouraged CHASE Africa to replicate the model with other organisations. >

 Below: Members of a community group weed their tomato garden together with a Project Officer from RICE-West Nile





During 2023, we worked with six conservation organisations across the region, including the development of a new project which will start in Tanzania in 2024.

We believe that the success of these projects is a result of providing opportunities for human health and environmental health to be addressed in an interconnected manner, particularly in areas where people are heavily dependent on natural resources for their lives and livelihoods, and where poverty, biodiversity loss and climate change are all interwoven.

Why do we partner with conservation organisations?

In CHASE Africa's experience, integrating community health projects into the work of conservation organisations can provide win-wins for both community and conservation outcomes.

Community-based conservation organisations, who are already engaged with their local communities, are in a unique position to use their existing relationships and understanding of the local language, culture and practices to break down some of the barriers that women and girls face when trying to access health services.

They can arrange dialogues to discuss complex issues around Sexual and Reproductive Health and facilitate improved access to healthcare through partnership with the local Ministry of Health. They are often located in remote, rural areas which are usually under-resourced with limited availability of health services. This collaboration can ensure that health is delivered to underserved populations.

By addressing communities' basic needs – such as health – and by empowering women and girls, conservation organisations see more positive engagement and trust towards their conservation activities.

Multi-directional benefits

Save the Elephants is one of our partners which has expressed how its community health project has had multi-directional benefits across all their programmes.

“The community healthcare model provided a perfect space to discuss cross-cutting issues such as human-wildlife conflict. Save the Elephants has found a greater interest in conservation issues since engaging with the community about health issues. Save the Elephants embraced the model as it served as a valuable platform to address community needs and reduce human-wildlife conflict.”


In other words, this healthcare model proved an effective platform for discussing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues in parallel to sharing information about environmental and conservation issues. The engagement sessions increased the trust and willingness of the community to listen and discuss conservation issues.”

Esther Serem, Community Outreach Manager at Save the Elephants

We remain committed to supporting other locally based conservation organisations to integrate health into their wider programmes.

“The community healthcare model provided a perfect space to discuss cross-cutting issues such as human-wildlife conflict.”

Esther Serem, Community Outreach Manager at Save the Elephants

 **Left: Save the Elephants lead a community dialogue at Kirumbi**

The benefits of taking an integrated approach

As well as working with conservation organisations, CHASE Africa has integrated environmental activities into the programmes of other partners working with rural communities. This includes a range of activities to address environmental challenges, food security, biodiversity loss and to improve natural resource management.

The value of the integrated approach that CHASE Africa takes was highlighted in our 2023 external evaluation report. Below, we share several effective strategies employed by CHASE Africa's partner network identified in the report, including:

- Incorporating cross-messaging into programmes, linking health with broader community and environmental concerns.
- Actively supporting educational initiatives, promoting both health and environmental conservation within schools.
- Engaging in various environmental sustainability projects, such as tree nurseries, reforestation and water conservation.
- Highlighting the interconnections between environmental resources and community health through advocacy efforts.
- Actively empowering Community Health Workers to address gender-based violence effectively, emphasising the importance of gender equality in overall wellbeing.
- Integrating livelihood development with health initiatives to introduce income-generating activities, promote financial independence and enhance access to health services.
- Combining kitchen gardens with family planning initiatives has yielded benefits, including improved nutrition, reduced trips to the market and enhanced food security.

Sharing CHASE Africa's model with new audiences

We are keen to share our healthcare model with wider audiences and join forces with other organisations to further our mission to support partner organisations in Africa that enable access to family planning, healthcare and rights, while protecting the environment and building resilience to climate change. Find out how we are spreading the word about CHASE Africa.



Partner Conference

In May, we ran a half-day session at the 2023 CHASE Africa partner conference to discuss how human and environmental health can be integrated. CHASE Africa invited locally based conservation organisations who had expressed an interest in learning how to integrate community health into environment and conservation programmes, to participate.

The session covered why addressing human health, particularly that of women and girls, and their Sexual and Reproductive Health, not only improves the health and wellbeing of project participants, but also brings wider benefits to local communities and greater engagement and participation in conservation activities.

We had presentations from several of our existing partners and then had a panel discussion involving John Kamanga from [SORALO](#); Rose Kimanzi from [CHAT](#); Digby Dufresne from [Milgis Trust](#); Delphin Mukira from [The Maa trust](#) and Comfort Yikuru from [RICE-West Nile](#).

The session allowed the delegates to learn from local partners on some of the ways they have integrated healthcare into their programmes, challenges they have faced and overcome, and learning.

 Above: From left to right Paula from CHAT, Charity from SORALO and Rose from CHAT at the 2023 partner conference



Task Force on Biodiversity and Family Planning

In 2023, CHASE Africa was invited to join the ['International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)'s Task Force on Biodiversity and Family Planning](#)'. The Task Force has two objectives: to embed the importance of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning in relevant processes, policies and guidance materials, and to demonstrate best practices, working across sectors to promote the importance of rights-based policies and programmes.

CHASE Africa was invited to join due to our experience of supporting several conservation organisations to start up and run health programmes that include tackling the barriers to rights-based family planning.



FP2030: Family Planning 2030

We committed to the objectives of [FP2030: Family Planning 2030](#), having previously committed to FP2020. FP2030 is an international network committed to using family planning to advance global health, support gender equality and develop thriving countries.

Our commitment included the following points:

- Address Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and the unmet need for family planning.
- Improve Adolescent SRHR outcomes.
- Partner with communities and stakeholders.
- Strengthen existing health systems.
- Integrate SRHR and community health into other programmes working in rural areas.

 Above: RICE-West Nile's Community Health Workers in Pawor sub county

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and Jersey Overseas Aid conference

In October we had the opportunity to present at the joint [Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and Jersey Overseas Aid](#) conference in London: *'Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihoods: A Shared Future.'* We shared our experience of integrating health programmes into the work of conservation organisations.

Community Health Impact Coalition

We became an Ally of the [Community Health Impact Coalition](#). We collaborate with the Coalition on specific projects to advance their mission of making professional Community Health Workers the norm worldwide by changing guidelines, funding and policy. The Coalition is in pursuit of getting quality embedded and scaled in existing public sector health delivery.

Stop Aids

We became a member of [Stop Aids](#), a UK-based HIV, health and human rights advocacy network. The network draws on its 35 years of experience working on the HIV response to support UK and global movements that challenge the systemic barriers and inequalities preventing people from realising their right to health and wellbeing.

The story continues in 2024



We will start an exciting new partnership with Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK). The project will improve the confidence and practice of Healthcare Workers, so that we can enhance the quality of care offered to clients accessing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health services in Meru County. Meru has the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in Kenya where 26% of pregnancies are among girls aged 10–19 years old. The project builds on our current Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health project in the county with Mount Kenya Trust.



We will start a new project in Tanzania with local partner Tanzania People and Wildlife. We will be working in Simanjiro County to layer health information, including Sexual and Reproductive Health, into their current programme to empower women and educate adolescents and youth.



We will enhance our safeguarding policy, processes and practices, following a deep dive into the work of two partners that will be shared across the CHASE Africa partner network.



We look forward to hosting the 2024 CHASE Africa Partner Conference which is taking place in Naivasha, Kenya.



We will incorporate more health system strengthening into our programmes to improve the quality and sustainability of health services.



We will continue to reach communities who are marginalised with health information and services.



We will research and start the process for setting up a CHASE Africa entity in East Africa.



We will develop a module on reproductive health and family planning for an organisation delivering training to over 20,000 Early Childhood Development practitioners in Southern Africa.



Right: Our local partner CHAT runs an outreach clinic along the Tana River in Kenya



Financial review

In 2023 the charity's total income was £959,423, up from £565,131 in 2022. This substantial rise in income was due to an increase in donations from several of our existing supporters, as well as a number of new multi-year grants that we were awarded in 2023.

This reflected success in our strategic aim of gaining multi-year commitments from funders which has enabled us in turn to make longer-term commitments to our local partners. It means we go into 2024 in a strong financial position with £267,044 of restricted funding committed to future programme expenditure.

Expenditure on raising funds in the year was £96,922 (compared to £79,159 in 2022). This reflected the increased capacity of the fundraising team and some consultancy advice on corporate fundraising, a new area of fundraising that we are hoping to break into.

Key achievements for the year included:

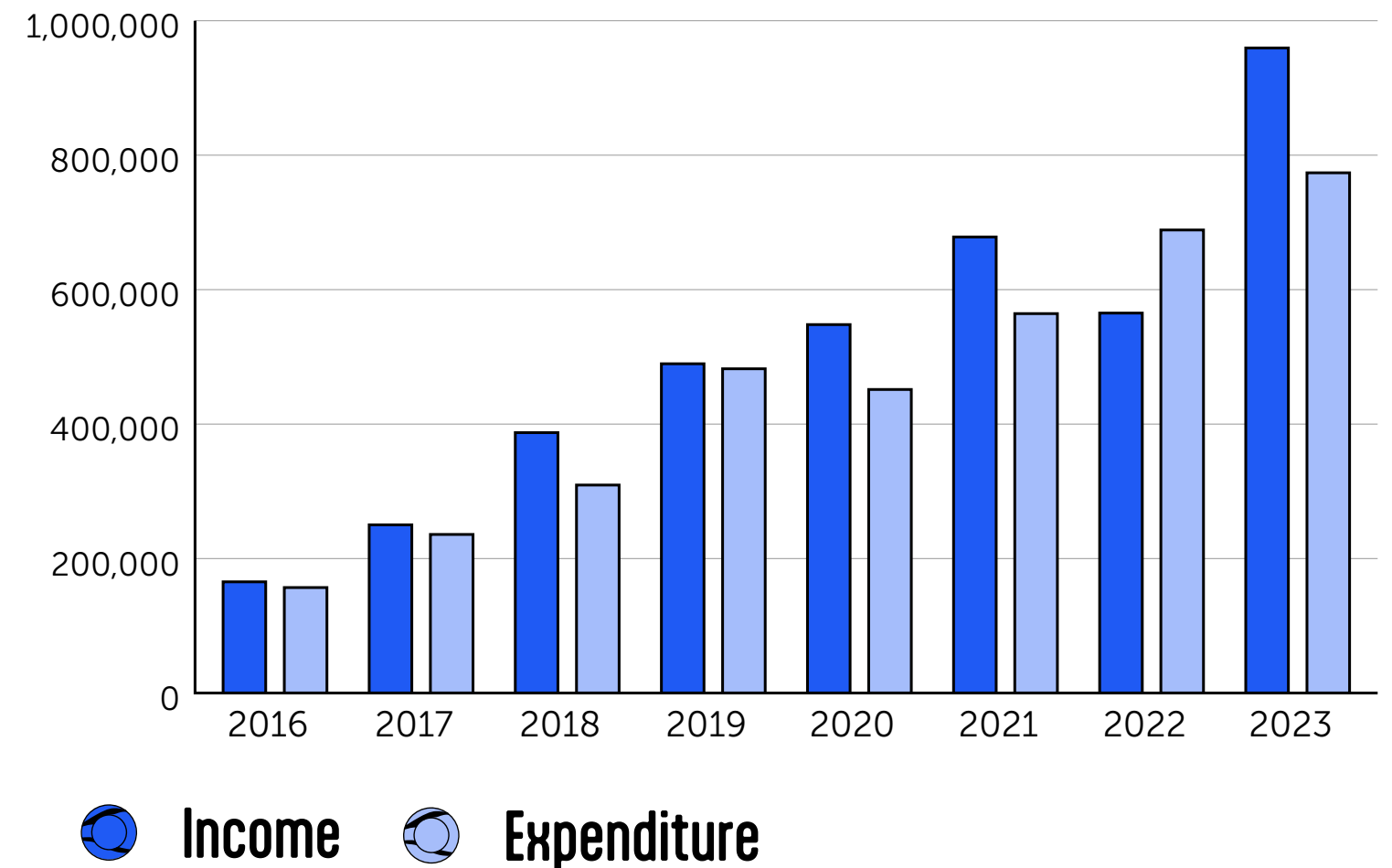
- £470,308 worth of grants made to partners in Kenya and Uganda (an increase from £412,244 in 2022).
- £959,423 of income raised, of this £816,267 was from trusts and foundations; £107,219 was from donations from individuals.
- Timely and efficient Gift Aid claims resulting in £22,737 being claimed back from HMRC.
- Overall running costs were kept to a minimum. For every £1 raised 16p was spent on administration and fundraising.
- Expenditure on charitable activities in the year was £676,786 (compared to £609,566 in 2022), showing growth in our charitable support.

As forecast, alongside our growth in income, we did see an increase in our overhead expenditure in 2023, as it was the full first year of having a remunerated Chief Executive, following the retirement of Henry Pomeroy as Director in June 2022 and the first full year of having to pay rent for an office. We also invested in the capacity of the team, in order to be able to support a growing portfolio of programmes, improve the quality of our monitoring and evaluation, and to spend time influencing other organisations and advocating for more organisations to address the health and wellbeing of women and girls, including removing the barriers to family planning.

These are the first accounts of CHASE Africa CIO, and we have made some adjustments to the way we report income to accord with the Charity SORP. As a consequence we have adjusted our 2022 income, with all income being shown in the year received, including restricted funding for future years. Charity accounting rules state that income is recognised in full when certain recognition criteria are met, even if the corresponding expenditure is incurred in a different accounting period. Such timing differences will result in restricted fund deficits in some years and surpluses in other years.

The charts shown compare CHASE Africa's income and expenditure during 2023 with 2022, and show our historic income and expenditure growth over the past eight years.

Historic income and expenditure growth over past eight years



Statement of financial activities

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Transition Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 Restated £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations, grants and legacies	408,640	540,892	-	949,532	561,336
Investment income	9,891	-	-	9,891	3,795
Total Income	418,531	540,892	-	959,423	565,131
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	96,992	-	-	96,992	79,159
Charitable activities	387,672	289,114	-	676,786	609,566
Total expenditure	484,664	289,114	-	773,778	688,725
Net Income / Expenditure	(66,133)	251,778		185,645	(123,594)
Net movement in funds	(66,133)	251,778	-	185,645	(123,594)
Transition Fund	-	-	-	-	(30,000)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	313,564	15,266	45,000	373,830	527,424
Total funds brought forward	247,431	267,044	45,000	559,475	373,830

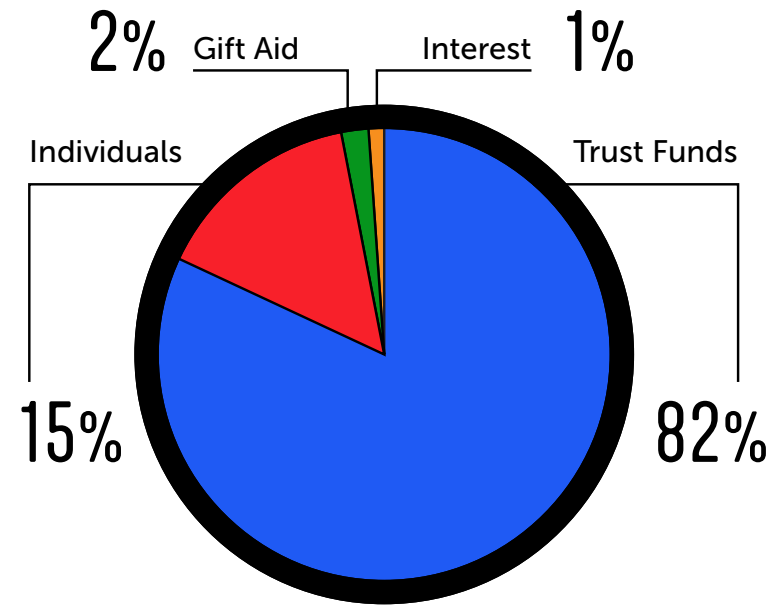
Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2023

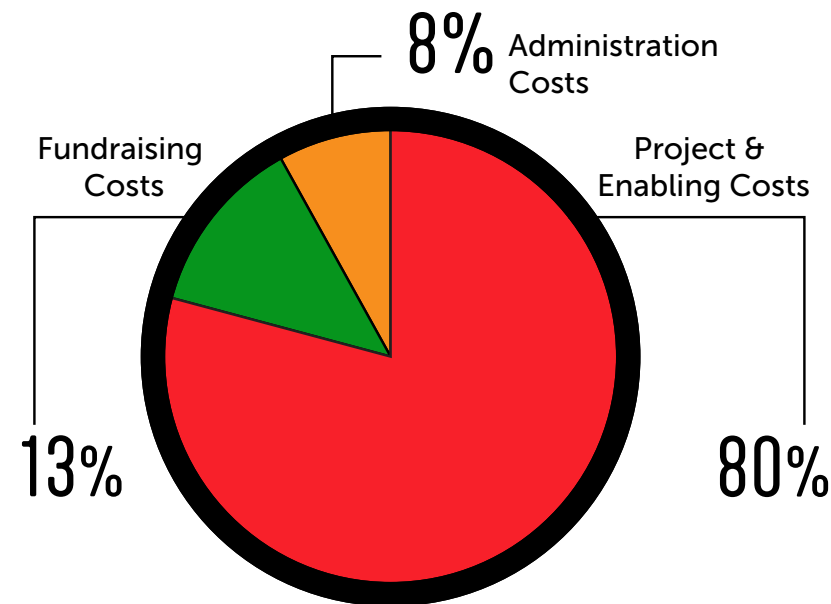
	2023 £	2022 Restated £
Current Assets		
Debtors	157,197	100,108
Cash held in Long Term Deposits	194,638	173,720
Cash held in Savings and Current Accounts	226,117	108,081
	577,952	381,909
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(18,477)	(8,079)
Net Assets	559,475	373,830
Funds of the charity:		
Restricted funds	267,044	15,266
Unrestricted Transition Fund	45,000	45,000
Unrestricted income funds:		
Unrestricted funds	247,431	313,564
Total funds	559,475	373,830

CHASE Africa's income and expenditure in 2023 and 2022

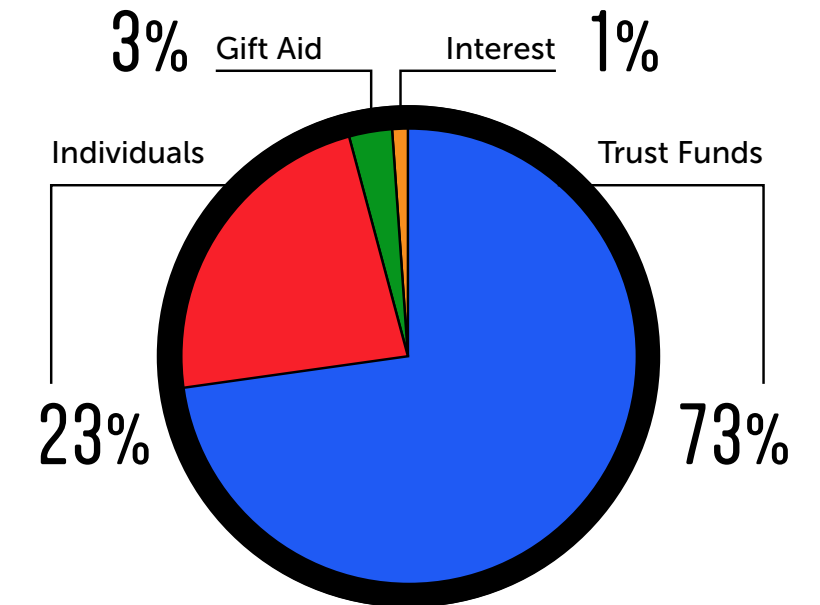
2023
Income
£959,423



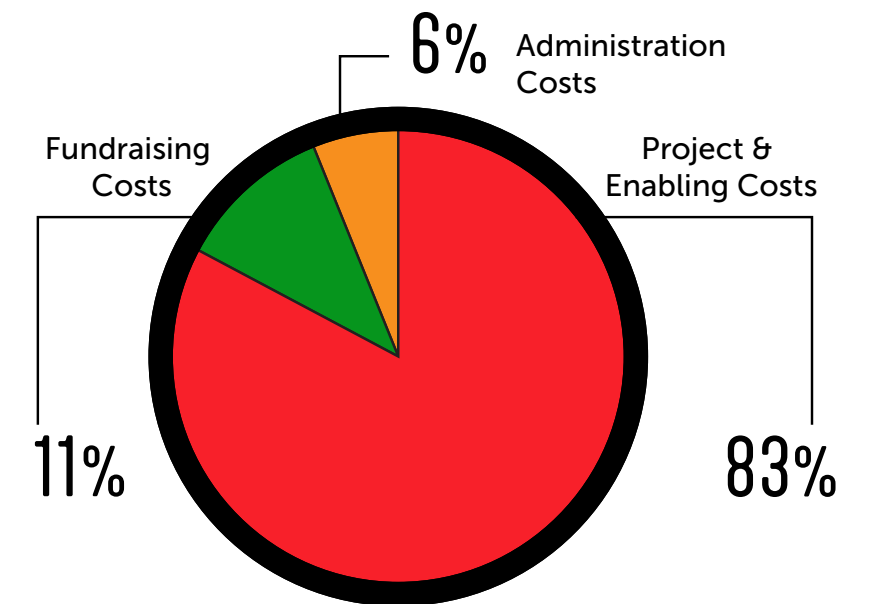
Expenditure
£773,778



2022
Income
£565,131



Expenditure
£688,725



Reference and admin

Trustees

Toby Aykroyd (Chair)
Steve Bown
Jax Comyn
Krupa Hirani (Treasurer)
Claire Maxey
Matilda Mutanguha
Dossie Payne
Ed Pycraft
Tori Rumbold Wright
Oliver Whaley
Mike Wheeler

Registered Office

The Office, Barrow Farm
Rode Hill, Rode
Somerset
BA11 6PS

Charity Registration Number

1200992 (previously 1082958)

Chief Executive Officer

Harriet Gordon-Brown

Finance Manager

James Clarke FCA

Independent Examiner

Milsted Langdon
4 Queen Street
Bath
BA1 1HE

Thank you

Our work is made possible because of your incredible support.

As CHASE Africa approaches its 25th anniversary next year we would like to thank all our supporters, individuals, Trusts, Foundations and Institutions who have helped CHASE Africa develop to where we are today. Together we have changed the lives of countless families, giving them a brighter future. Our work clearly shows how planetary and human health are inextricably linked.

We would also like to thank our Trustees, Advisory Group and Patrons for their time and valuable advice.


We are always very grateful when individuals organise their own fundraising events, such as swimming, running and litter-picking amongst others. As well as raising valuable funds, these events help to raise our profile.

We were lucky enough to receive a number of legacies in wills. These unexpected gifts make a real boost to morale and funds.


We have ambitious plans to expand the impact of our work, to change lives for the better in more rural communities and to create new partnerships with organisations trying to protect the environment and biodiversity for future generations.

Our work is only possible because of all of you who believe in what we are trying to do. We post regular updates on our website and social media – do keep an eye out for them, and once again, a very big thank you to you all.

More information about ways you can help can be found on our website.

 **Right: RICE-West Nile run an outreach clinic in Iyete village in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement**



 Cover photo: Mothers at a neonatal care session held in Orbili by Big Life Foundation
Photo: Joshua Clay

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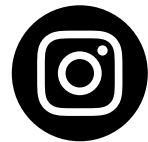
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