



2021 IMPACT REPORT

THE AFRICAN SOUP
WWW.THEAFRICANSOUP.ORG

Mission

To empower communities through national primary education change, informed by our community development programming.



Vision

A Uganda with equipped teachers, engaged learners, and empowered communities.



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LETTER FROM OUR ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SOUP Supporter,

We are excited to present The African SOUP's 2021 Annual Report, where we share highlights of the achievements and impact you've helped make possible. We are humbled to have reached more than 1,800 children, women, and aspiring teachers in the Busoga region in Eastern Uganda, which is among the most impoverished and under-resourced regions in the country.

The global pandemic brought another challenging year for the world and for Uganda, particularly. In fact, Uganda recorded the longest COVID shutdown in the world, as reported in the *New York Times*. Despite difficult circumstances, The SOUP was able to develop new and innovative strategies to continue serving communities in need.

In the pages that follow, you will read how The SOUP creatively designed a home learning program, which kept students engaged in meaningful activity-based learning during school closures.

We are proud to share that this program was recently recognized by the Ugandan government and featured in the most widely read national newspaper, *New Vision*. Last year, The SOUP was also able to improve infrastructure, including renovating classrooms and getting The SOUP School connected to the national power grid.

This report also shares how The SOUP served more than 850 households last year, providing food and essential items, as well as COVID prevention and relief efforts.

We are extremely grateful for your commitment to The SOUP as individual donors, funders, and partner organizations. A special thank you to our Ugandan and U.S. Boards of Directors for their wonderful stewardship of the organization. We could not have gotten this far without the dedication and investment of all.

With your support, we will continue to empower communities through the power of education. Our deepest gratitude goes to all of you on behalf of the communities we serve.

Sincerely,
Michael Kaidhiwa
Acting Executive Director

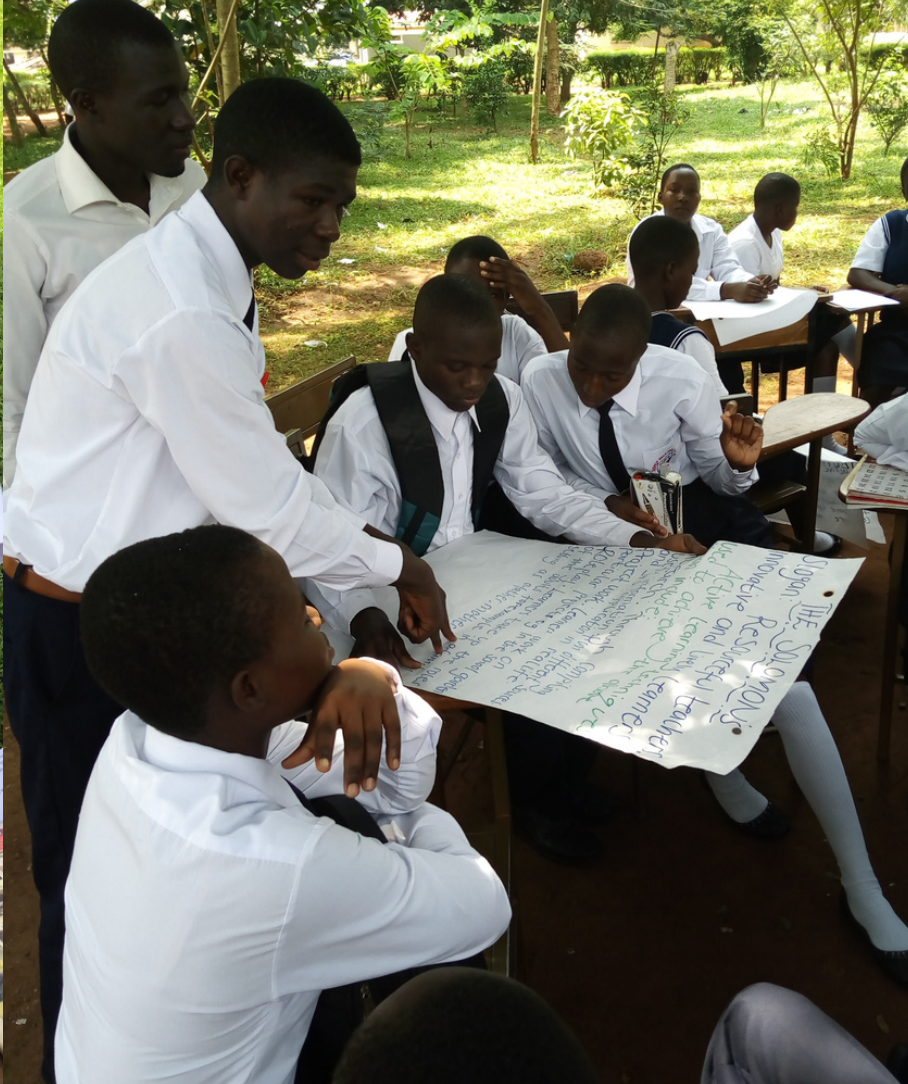




BACKGROUND

The African SOUP is a nonprofit organization founded in 2010 with the mission of empowering communities through national primary education change, informed by our community development programs in rural Eastern Uganda. Initially created to solve the issue of lack of access to education and health services in Nabikabala village, the SOUP has evolved over the past decade to also address the wider problem of poor-quality education in Uganda's classrooms nationwide.

Given what we have learned about effective teaching methods at our Demonstration Nursery and Primary School, combined with years of research and learning, The SOUP created the Active Learning Project (ALP). The ALP is an education reform initiative equipping primary school teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to use a student-centered approach to learning in their classrooms. The strength of the ALP is tied to the success of our community programs, which continue to provide high-quality education and targeted health and nutrition services to students and families in Nabikabala village.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

THE DEMONSTRATION NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The African SOUP School served 470 students during the 2021 academic school year. Due to COVID restrictions, the SOUP School campus remained closed for most of the students with the exception of 52 Primary Seven (P7) students. These candidates, supported by their creative and resourceful teachers, sat for their national exams last March. We are proud to report that 100% of the P7 students passed their exams and were promoted to the secondary level of education.

The SOUP staff strategized and designed a home learning model to respond to the closure of The SOUP School's campus. Teachers prepared and printed learning materials, which were distributed in the community on a weekly basis. Teachers then followed up with students throughout the community to explain concepts and facilitate learning. This learning model not only catered to SOUP School students, but it also extended to those from other schools and students who had previously dropped out of school. This initiative was supported by Ugandan government authorities who worked in partnership with The SOUP staff to provide textbooks to students and strengthen COVID-19 protocols within the community.





A total of **713 learners**, including 418 SOUP students and 295 children in the community, received a learning package and support from SOUP School teachers to facilitate their learning.

Last year, we also made improvements to The SOUP School infrastructure.

Classrooms were painted and new terrazzo floors installed. We also reinforced school fencing with a new gate to increase security and installed lightning conductors on the classroom blocks to make classrooms more secure during inclement weather. Lastly, the campus was finally connected to the national power grid and now enjoys reliable electricity after many years without power. The improved school facilities create a friendlier and safer environment more conducive to learning for our students and teachers.

In addition, we **established a computer lab at The SOUP School**. This computer lab, equipped with 15 computers, is the only one in Nabikabala village with reliable internet services to facilitate research and online communication. In addition, a total of 18 SOUP teachers were empowered in the use of technology through hands-on training. We are excited to see that our teachers can now use online resources to research and prepare quality learning materials for the teaching and learning process.

Finally, through the permaculture project, we planted more fruit trees and vegetables in the school compound as a means of enhancing the natural green environment and improving the natural ecology. The project also supported the establishment of a water harvesting tank at the school and an irrigation system to water the gardens. Apart from the food and vegetables that are being grown from the school gardens, this project has been a demonstration ground for training SOUP School parents on gardening skills and improved food production.





EMMA'S BABY SOUP

Emma's Baby SOUP (EBS) is a nutrition and health outreach program that provides services to SOUP students as well as 102 community families, including critical support for pregnant mothers and babies suffering from acute malnutrition and HIV/AIDS. EBS relies on a holistic health approach facilitated through medical attention at The SOUP School and the provision of nutrient-rich food, wellness workshops, parent counseling, and home health visits in Nabikabala.

102 households of mothers and children were supported with growth monitoring and provided vitamins and supplements to nourish their babies. The SOUP partnered with a nearby government-owned health center to identify families in need, enroll children, and offer medical support. Pregnant mothers were supported with nutritious meals, as well as antenatal and postnatal services through medical referrals.

These households also received training in small business development and entrepreneurship as a means of increasing income at the household level. This year, a number of the women started small businesses, which have increased their income and the quality of life for their families.



THE SECONDARY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Secondary Enrichment Program (SEP) helps SOUP School Primary Seven students continue their education by providing scholarships, personal enrichment, and leadership opportunities. These students return to The SOUP campus during term breaks for workshops focusing on topics from healthcare to servant leadership and have the opportunity to mentor younger students.

Out of the **57 students supported through SEP**, 26 students sat for their lower secondary education exams and scored very well. Twenty (20) of these students made the decision to continue with their higher secondary education. This past year, SEP scholars were a helpful resource in facilitating home learning sessions for younger students during the lockdown. The SOUP team continued to support SEP scholars with distribution of home learning packages aided by a social worker who conducted home visits to provide counseling to learners. Lastly, some SEP scholars put their entrepreneurship training in practice and were involved in small scale businesses to support themselves and their families.



THE SECONDARY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM STORIES



Sanyu, 16, is a SOUP Primary School graduate and SEP student. Sanyu was inspired to start a business using the entrepreneurship training she received. Last year, she raised 25 turkeys, which she was able to sell during the end-of-year festive season. Each bird was sold at \$15.

Bernard, 19, graduated from The SOUP Primary School, then participated in SEP during his time at secondary school. He spoke of his experience, "I learned very many things from the SEP training. I received career guidance and business and leadership skills. From the career guidance, I was able to sit down, process, and look at my results and see that they would take me to the Primary Teachers' College to train as a teacher."

Most excitingly, Bernard enrolled at Bishop Willis, the Primary Teachers' College where The SOUP implements its teacher training program, the ALP!





THE ACTIVE LEARNING PROJECT

The Active Learning Project (ALP) aims to improve the quality of nursery and primary education in Uganda through active learning, which emphasizes experiential education, creativity, critical thinking, and ethical behavior. Active learning is a departure from the traditional teaching methods of rote memorization and lecture, and equips teachers and learners with increased content knowledge, problem-solving abilities, and enthusiasm for learning. In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports and Bishop Willis Core Primary Teachers' College, The SOUP trained **30 college professors and 400 teacher trainees** in the active learning methodology.

Given the ALP's ability to be scaled nationally, The African SOUP continues to work closely with government officials, particularly the Ministry of Education and Sports, as well as other peer education development partners through active engagement in consultations, monitoring, and peer-to-peer learning.

The SOUP team joined the Ministry of Education and Sports and other education leaders for a three-day National Teachers' Symposium under the theme: “**A digitally competent teaching force for the 21st Century.**” This is one of the core areas that the ALP emphasized this past year. An abridged training manual was developed for teachers and adopted as part of the mentorship course in active learning.



COVID-19 RELIEF



Like the rest of the world, Uganda was severely hit with the second wave of the COVID-19 Delta variant, which led to a national lockdown and closure of all institutions of learning. The effect of the closure was particularly felt among vulnerable households in the community where The SOUP School operates.

The SOUP provided monthly distribution of food and hygiene products, which **supported 670 families** in the surrounding community. The COVID relief packages included maize flour, beans, salt, and soap. They were distributed every month from June to December and provided critical relief to families who had no means of financial support due to the lockdown. In addition, SOUP School children continued to receive two nutritious meals a day throughout the campus closure. One parent shared that her family would have starved had it not been for The SOUP food distributions.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With the aim to strengthen and diversify governance, The SOUP welcomed five new members to its Ugandan Board and four new members to its U.S. Board. These enthusiastic and talented individuals have brought a wealth of skills and technical knowledge to help position The SOUP for even greater impact.

PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS TEAM

Michael Kaidhiwa, Acting Executive Director

Rebecca Mirembe, Director of the ALP

Emma Muyinda, Director of EBS

Kenneth Agaba, ALP Manager

Jill Kuhn, Director of Development

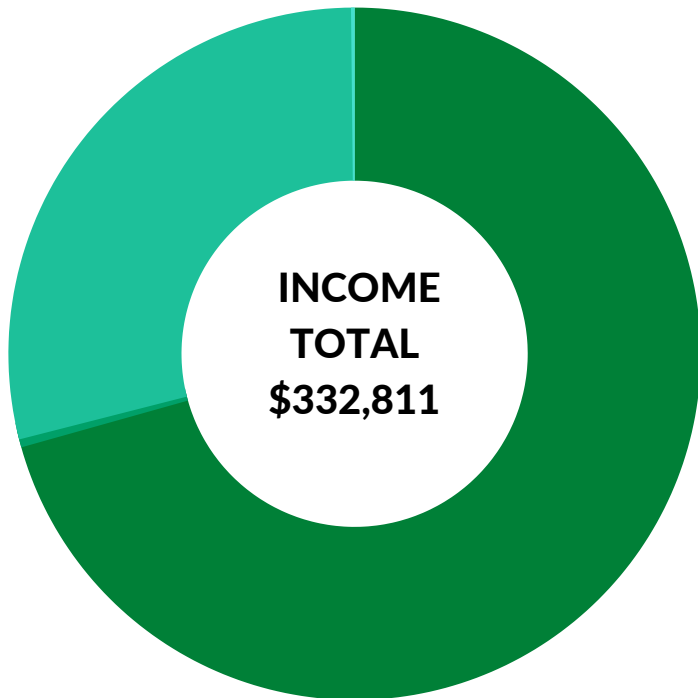
U.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carrie Conway
Brin Enterkin
Tieler Giles
Judson Graves
John Hatfield
Audrey Jacobs
Joel Jassu
Dr. Laura Johns
Alexander Kyerematen
Marti Morton
Lizzy Smith

UGANDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Among
Dr. Joshua Gukiina
Dr. Humphrey E. Gusango
Reverend Wilson Kaidhigha
Michael Kaidhiwa
Essau Kyonkone
George Mpande
Robina Nabwire
Sarah Olumbe
Dr. Mirionsi Wamukolo

2021 FINANCIALS



\$235,107

Grants

\$95,891

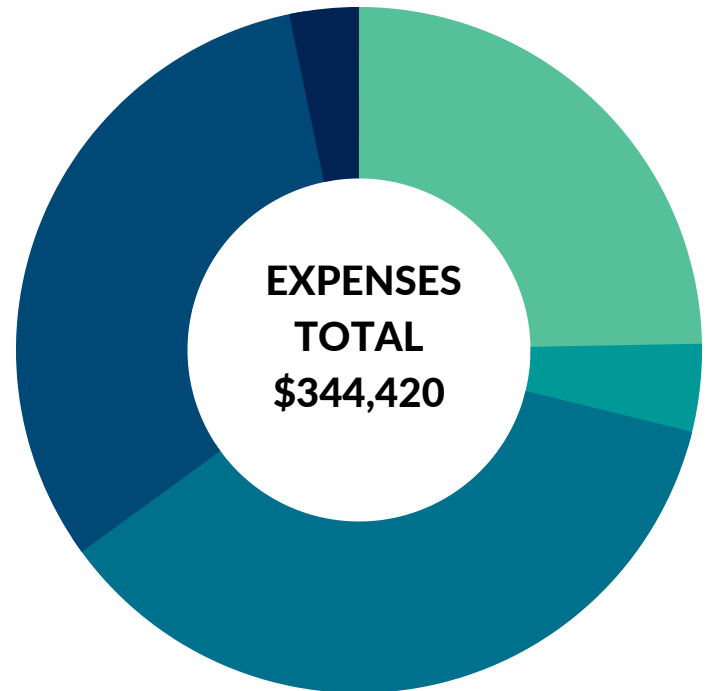
Individual Donations

\$1,257

Uganda Income

\$556

Interest Income



\$124,503

Nursery and Primary School

\$109,353

Uganda and U.S. Operating Expenses

\$85,102

Active Learning Project

\$14,205

Emma's Baby SOUP

\$11,257

Secondary Enrichment Program

2021 operating expenses exceeded 2021 income due primarily to the cost of capital improvements to the campus as well as the SOUP's ongoing COVID-19 response. The funding for these additional expenses was covered by surplus income raised in 2020 that was not expended due to limited programmatic activities at the height of the pandemic.



Thank you!



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