



HANDS AROUND
THE WORLD

30 years
of helping
children thrive



Annual report 2023

About Us



Children in Monze, Zambia

Mission Statement

To help children and young people disadvantaged through poverty or disability, or otherwise vulnerable, in partnership with locally-managed centres in Benin, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia and India. We also support well-prepared volunteers to offer practical help, skill sharing, and friendship.

Vision

We want to see happy, healthy children in our partner projects, enabled to reach for their full potential, with opportunities to have productive and fulfilled lives.

How We Work

We work in partnership with in-country managers to realise their vision of supporting vulnerable children and alleviating poverty within their communities. This means ownership remains within the local community and we are committed to supporting our partner projects to move towards sustainability.

Hands Around the World Jersey

We work in close collaboration with our colleagues at Hands Around the World Jersey. Read their report on pages 9-11.

"In this report, you will find inspirational stories of individuals whose lives have been touched through the efforts of our partners and their vision for a better tomorrow in their communities."



Bridget Higginson
Executive Officer

Celebrating 30 years

2024 marks Hands Around the World's 30th Anniversary! We hope you will join us in celebrating the achievements of Hands Around the World over the years and highlighting the remarkable contributions of various individuals who have been a part of our journey since 1994.

There are so many incredible stories of volunteers, project partners and participants who have been involved over the last 30 years and many of them, like our founders David and Lynda Steiner, continue to play a pivotal role in our operations today and in delivering our vision for the future.

We would like to thank everyone involved in Hands Around the World's activities for their generosity as well as their enthusiasm to make a difference. We extend our gratitude to volunteers, supporters, staff, trustees and project partners, both past and present, and we look forward to working with those who will join us in the future!

"Whatever our achievements... they have been made possible by the inspirational support from Hands Around the World. I express my hearty thanks and would like to work together for further development of New Life Centre to uplift especially the least fortunate children and make them fortunate with quality education."

Alindra Naskar, founder of New Life Centre, India



Zambia

In 2023, Hands Around the World worked in partnership with four organisations in Zambia.



Pamodzi Ndi Ana (PNA) / Together with Children, Chipata

We supported the following initiatives at PNA:

- Sponsorship of 12 children with disabilities into school, like Michelle, pictured with her mother above
- Speech therapy workshop for 45 children with cerebral palsy or hydrocephalus, as well as their parents or guardians and training for 11 local physiotherapists
- The completion of a special unit for children with disabilities and a ramp to connect to the main school buildings
- Distribution of 30 new wheelchairs and follow-up visits and wheelchair modifications for a further 21 children

Pictured above right is Nathan, one of the sponsored students who lives with his mother and stepfather in a village called Kaole, in the district of Chipangali. It is a rural area and in the rainy season, the roads are a real challenge for children like Nathan.



He was born with hydrocephalus and has been with the programme at PNA since 2018. His family received help with transport to enable Nathan to get to the hospital in Lusaka for treatment and medical check-ups.

Nathan received a wheelchair from the project and was able to start school. He receives regular visits from the team at PNA to modify his wheelchair as he grows. The wheelchairs are easy to repair and adapt; they are also incredibly robust and well suited for the local terrain.

The team at PNA supports Nathan in school with all the necessary school supplies and ensures he has regular follow-ups, both for his wheelchair changes and his medical visits.



Kaliyangile Vocational Training Centre, Chisamba

Zambia Women and Girls Foundation (ZaWGF), Monze

In Monze, in the Southern Province of Zambia, Hands Around the World sponsored 54 children in secondary school. These sponsorships were managed in partnership with ZaWGF, with whom we also supported the development of a school garden at Hamangaba School.

Maluba Kasensa Project, Monze

Elsewhere in Monze, we helped with the construction of a new kitchen and provision of food for 105 highly vulnerable children. This was delivered in collaboration with Maluba Kasensa, an inspiring volunteer-led NGO which operates via a community centre in the town. Pictured left is Naomi, a volunteer caregiver at the project. Kasensa supports the educational, nutritional and hygiene needs of some of Monze's most vulnerable children. Children come to the centre monthly to collect mealie meal and beans, helping to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Thanks to the new kitchen, they are also able to enjoy a meal together.

We supported Kaliyangile to fulfil the requirements of TEVETA (the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority). This involved the completion of a new toilet and shower block as well as equipping the classroom and tailoring workshop. With TEVETA approval, the centre could open its doors to new students. During 2023, 15 people attended training in beekeeping, and eight people joined the tailoring and computer classes. With the training centre re-opening, we decided that the time was right to conclude our regular support. We will keep in touch, and may support specific initiatives in the future, as need arises.

India



Former students from the New Life Centre

Hands Around the World's partner in West Bengal, India is the New Life Centre (NLC), a school and vocational training centre which currently supports over 250 children and young people towards qualifications that will improve their prospects for further education and employment.

The successes of former students offer some insight into how the NLC enhances the lives of those who pass through its doors.

Baswajit (pictured, right, in his shop) went on to study computer science at university and, with his entrepreneurial spirit, has recently started an IT business. He extended his parents' grocery shop near the NLC to include IT facilities that local people can use. He also helps the NLC by managing certain IT activities for the school.



"The alumni visits in November 2023 were highlights for me, as it is wonderful to see so many of these young people doing well. These young women and men are the first in their families to go to university and to hear their experiences and ambitions was truly inspiring."

Trustee and India Project Coordinator Tess Molloy, reflecting on her discussions with former students.

Tania, Afsana, Jakia, Ismia and Sahil in India (pictured above) are pursuing further education and careers in diverse fields including physics, English, nursing, IT and the Civil Service. We wish them every success!

Kenya

A highlight of 2023, achieved in collaboration with Motivation Africa, was the delivery of 35 new wheelchairs to the Disability Community Centre (DCC) in Maua.

The wheelchairs were distributed to children and young people with severe mobility difficulties related to conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and paraplegia. The positive impact of these wheelchairs has already been significant, with improved mobility, autonomy and associated psychological benefits.

Precious is 12 years old and has cerebral palsy. She attends Athi Special School, a local school dedicated to serving children with disabilities, which Hands Around the World has supported previously. Precious had owned a wheelchair before, but it had become unusable with broken wheels, damaged brakes and no footrest. Because of this, she had become dependent on her guardians to move her around. Thanks to the new wheelchair, she says she is now able to move herself around and play with the other children at school.



In Kenya and elsewhere, Hands Around the World sponsors individual students through further education and training. In 2023, Esther (pictured below) graduated with a nursing degree from the University of Meru in Kenya.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and the entire Hands Around the World fraternity. Thank you for your unwavering support that you have accorded me since we started this journey together... it has been five years of great friendship and support. Am sincerely grateful to you all. At the nursing school I have been equipped with knowledge and skills on how to interact with patients, clients and all people requiring my nursing services and other medical needs, from neonates all the way to the elderly, not forgetting the last offices and caring for the bereaved. I believe that I can now be able to compete for job opportunities in Kenya and the whole globe at large."



We have exciting plans to further develop our work in Kenya, reaching more children and young people through developing new partnerships in 2024.

Benin



Benin Field Coordinator, Christian, and children from CPG on the farm in Affame

Throughout 2023, Hands Around the World's partner in Benin, Chez Papa Geoff (CPG), supported 23 orphaned and vulnerable children with necessities including shelter, food, access to education and healthcare.

An important aspect of the development of this project has always been the supporting farm. The farm contributes to the provision of food for the children and produces some surplus for income generation. The sustainable palm oil plantation, for example, represents an important cash crop for the project.

At the end of 2023, Hands Around the World made the decision to reduce external funding for CPG and we have since ended our financial support to the project. The link with Affame began back in 2001 and as our partnership ends, we think back to the many children and young people whose lives have been changed so much for the better thanks to this.

Georgette, who was cared for at CPG, is now self-sufficient and an accomplished dressmaker. Pictured here (right), she is receiving her diploma after completing her apprenticeship in tailoring.

Georgette made the two dresses herself. Sitting next to her is the daughter of the lady who trained her. They have become good friends and Georgette made her a matching dress for her first communion.



Environmental initiatives



Annet (second from right) with pupils at TGS transplanting seedlings

In collaboration with NGO Marshal Papworth, Hands Around the World supports young people from our project communities who have an aptitude for agriculture to come to the UK to study sustainable farming at a top agricultural university. In July 2023, our first group completed the 10 week course. Annet from Uganda shares her experience:

"I want to express my deep gratitude to Hands Around the World for its tremendous contribution towards my career. Through Hands Around the World, I got a Marshal Papworth Scholarship for a short course in sustainable farming that I recently undertook at Harper Adams University. The course provided a comprehensive curriculum that blended theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience. It enabled me to gain practical insights into real world challenges faced by farming communities. With the knowledge and experience gained, I embarked on promoting organic practices and implementing strategies that increase crop yields and animal production, to uplift livelihoods in the community."

Also in 2023, Hands Around the World launched its new Environment Fund, inviting proposals to deliver projects aimed at helping communities adapt to climate change and mitigate its impacts. After her training, Annet returned to Uganda and decided to apply to the new fund to start a project in the school where she teaches, Tororo Girls' School (TGS) in eastern Uganda. Her proposal for rainwater harvesting and fruit and vegetable production at TGS was successful.



Rwanda



Report by Mike Haden, Chairperson of Hands Around the World Jersey

2023 saw a significant expansion of our partnership with schools in Rusizi District, notably through the establishment of the three-year Ubumwe (Unity) Project.

We began our involvement in Rwanda in 2010 with assistance to one school. Since then, with the generous encouragement and support of Jersey Overseas Aid, we have gradually widened the scope of our partnership, currently to nine schools.

In 2023, the Ubumwe Project saw five new classrooms and 12 renovated rooms at Bugarama Cité School.



In addition, two new girls' hygiene rooms were constructed (one of which is pictured above). Many disadvantaged girls miss school through period poverty and lack of support. We are also aiming to provide all girls at our partner schools with 'Dignity Bags' containing sanitary products.

We are supporting the 'Street Children's Lives Matter' campaign, initiated by Father Emmanuel, headteacher at Muko School. Shocked by the number of young people dropping out of education through poverty and family conflicts, he has encouraged them to return to school by providing two meals a day, seven days a week, throughout the year. To date, 283 young people have returned to school. Hands Around the World's lunchbox programme has made a significant contribution.

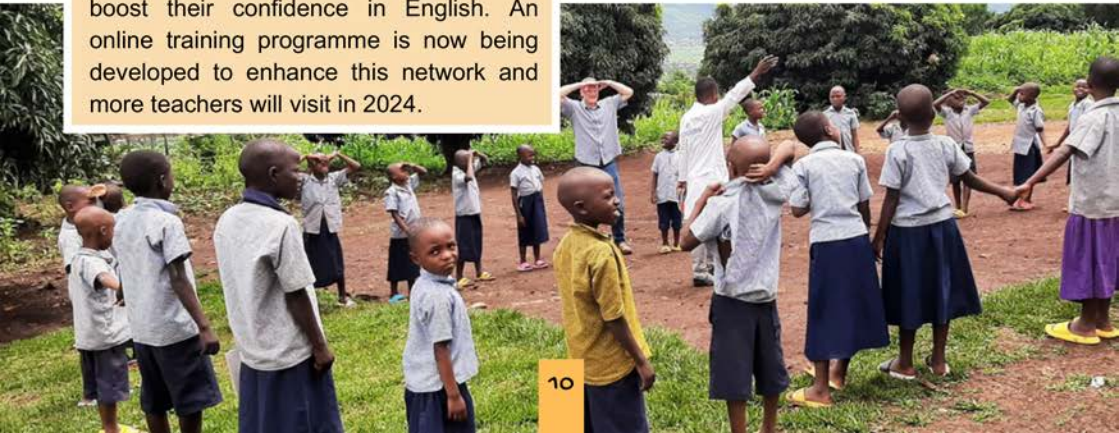




All the schools are developing agricultural initiatives to support their school lunch programmes. We are supporting their efforts by providing sustainability grants. St Paul Muko has led the way by renting fields to grow cassava, beans and vegetables. We have provided them with a water pump for irrigation. Bugarama Cité has started a dairy cow project to produce milk, while other schools are starting pig-rearing projects.

Another new venture in 2023 has been our partnership with the Jersey Education Department and their support for a network of Jersey and Rwandan teachers. In August 2023, a team of 14 from Jersey visited Bugarama to work with local teachers on curriculum initiatives and to boost their confidence in English. An online training programme is now being developed to enhance this network and more teachers will visit in 2024.

At the end of 2023, we were pleased to hear that two of our partner schools had received special recognition. St Paul Muko was named as the top lower secondary school and Mihabura the top primary school in the Western Province, effectively in the top six schools in the country; they were called up to Kigali to receive recognition from the president.



our impact in 2023


Through Hands Around the World and our partners in Benin, India, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia...

- 388 children received school lunches or extra food for home.
- 318 children were supported through sponsorship in schools.
- 86 wheelchairs were distributed and adapted to fit.
- 51 young people were supported with vocational training.
- 34 volunteers participated in the UK and three overseas.
- 18 children with disabilities benefitted from a new classroom, ramp and educational toys.
- 5 young people were sponsored to study nursing and medicine.
- 3 new partnerships were initiated with NGOs in Zambia.
- 3 school gardens were developed (total number of pupils = 2,940).
- 1 toilet and shower block was constructed.



Through Hands Around the World Jersey and their partners in Rwanda...

- 2,300 children benefitted from improved school infrastructure and renovations.
- 283 street-connected children were encouraged back into school.
- 24 volunteers participated.
- 14 teachers from Jersey participated in Summer School in Bugarama.
- 12 classrooms were renovated.
- 9 students were sponsored in secondary/vocational/university.
- 9 local schools in Bugarama joined as partners in the Ubumwe project.
- 4 teachers were supported to improve teaching qualifications.
- 5 new classrooms were constructed.
- 2 girls' hygiene rooms were constructed.
- 1 new partnership was developed with Jersey Education Department.



"We ask you to keep on helping us in our life"

Florence, participant of the school lunches project in Rwanda

We are very grateful for the generosity of organisations and individuals through donations, legacy gifts, grants, and sponsorships during the year. With income of £309,057 and expenditure of £226,604, we have been able to maintain healthy reserves as we move into 2024, allowing us to expand our work and help more children and young people.

Some friends are no longer with us, but their legacies continue to impact our work: in 2023 we received significant legacy donations, for which we are incredibly grateful. They have enabled us to dream big about developing new partnerships and extending our reach.

Our full accounts for 2023 are available on our website - www.hatw.org.uk, or on request from info@hatw.org.uk.



Eli, Ally and Richard at school in Zambia

Volunteering

Mike Haden, Chair of Hands Around the World Jersey, says, "We welcome volunteers to join us in Rwanda... we can promise you an unforgettable experience in a wonderfully vibrant country."



In 2023, Lyn (pictured below left) volunteered at the New Life Centre (NLC) in India. It was her seventh visit...

"Giving a hand was our aim for this visit, as always. To support Alindra (Centre Director), to listen to his plans for the NLC's development and share ideas. I leave the NLC feeling so pleased to be involved with it, to have learnt from it and to see how the lives and education of so many children have been enriched by their time at this caring, forward-looking school."



Volunteers Jenny and John (above) offered their support and encouragement to the students training at Harper Adams on presentation day. Jenny said: "A great day was had by all. The presentations were all excellent, and we learned so much!"

"Helping in the office and with events enables me to contribute in a small way to the amazing work that Hands Around the World does," says Frances (pictured below left, with Mary, at the Priory coffee morning fundraising event.)



How you can help

Donate

We rely on the generous donations of our supporters. Please consider making a one-off gift or regular contribution to help our vital work. Please visit our website to donate:

www.hatw.org.uk



Leave a legacy

A legacy does not have to be a large sum of money. To leave Hands Around the World a legacy, you need to make a bequest to us in your will. If you would like more information, please get in touch:

info@hatw.org.uk



Fundraise

We'd love you to help raise funds for us. Why not involve your friends, family, and colleagues too? There is something for everyone, from sponsored sporting events to bake sales. Please visit our website for inspiration.



Volunteer

Join our Monmouth team to help in the office and at local events, or help us remotely wherever you live. For the more adventurous, you can apply for an overseas volunteer placement with one of our partner organisations. We would love to hear from you!





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