



EKISA

REWRITING THE STORY OF DISABILITY

ANNUAL
REPORT
2021

21/22



WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL 2021-22



Hi there,
I am Savio, a student at Ekisa Academy in Red Class. I want to thank everyone for the support and sacrifice you have given to us children living with disabilities. May the Lord bless you all! Being at school has helped me to

meet different friends, children and teachers who have taught me and have become my friends for life. Personally I have learnt to count and spell in Red class and my favorite subject has been Math. I have become confident enough to express myself in my community. I am hoping and praying to aim higher and if I am given an opportunity I have a dream of continuing my studies in Business abroad. May God help me!
- Savio



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LETTER FROM OUR NURSING DIRECTOR

2021-22

A YEAR OF MEDICAL SUPPORT

It was an incredible year where our team gave their all, responding quickly and creatively to the rapid changes and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are humbled to be part of this mission and witness that our focus has allowed us to continue to deliver the care that is safe, effective, and kind. This year, we faced lockdown for staff and children in our Transitional Home, children stuck

at home because all schools were closed, and a ban on all transportation. Thankfully, we were able to put safe measures in place and we received permission to deliver essential medications, surgeries, and food packages to children on our programs. We battled malnutrition, medical emergencies, and the loss of several lives due to incurable illnesses. In the middle of these painful experiences,

we also saw children receive successful surgeries, parents play a more active role in their child's health, and an increase in quality of life for many. It was a beautiful and difficult year, and we thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

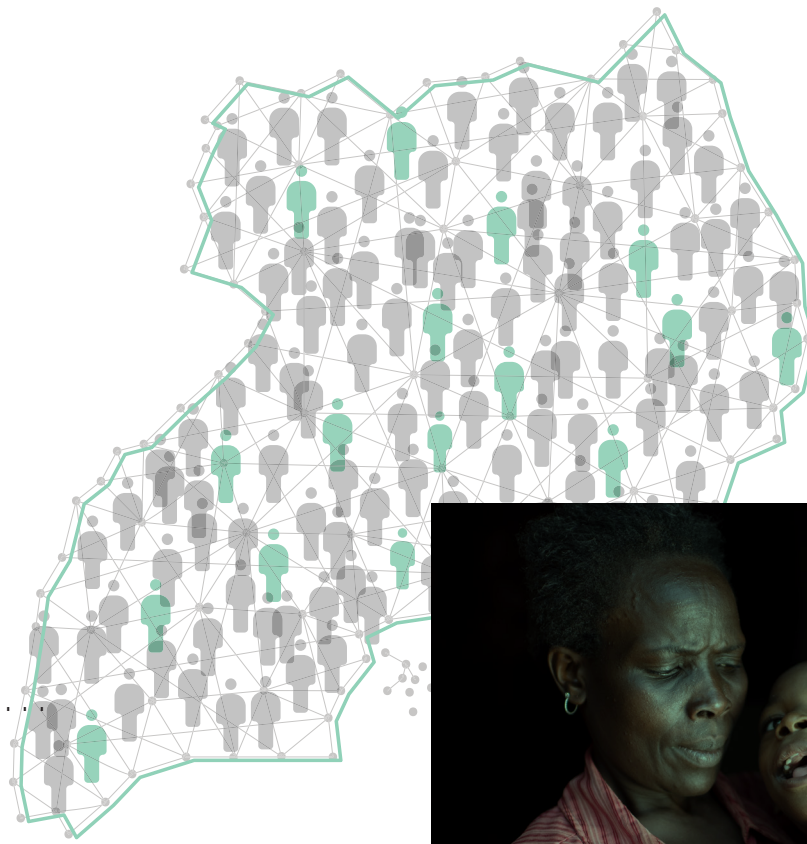
Bronda Bukira
NURSING DIRECTOR



WELCOME!

THE PROBLEM.

THESE ARE THE ISSUES WE ARE WORKING TO SOLVE.



IN UGANDA:

A LACK OF SUPPORT

All around the world, children with disabilities lack support services needed to thrive.

They often have complex needs that require access to high quality medical services, therapy, special education, 24/7 care, and more.

But they cannot access these services because of a lack of availability, transportation, finances, education, and stigma.

No child should be left behind. Every child should be supported.

STIGMA

All around the world, children with disabilities are stigmatized.

They, along with their families, face intense discrimination stemming from a variety of beliefs: that they are cursed, that they are being punished for sins, that they are worthless.

No child deserves to be rejected because of how they were born. Every child should be accepted.

17X

MORE LIKELY TO END UP IN AN INSTITUTION

Children with disabilities are more likely to be placed in an orphanage than other children. The reasons for this are stigma, poverty, abandonment, neglect, abuse, among others. Research shows us that institutions can be harmful for a child's health, and that children have the best opportunity to thrive in a family. While many organizations and governments are shifting to family reintegration, children with disabilities risk getting left behind because of the added complexities and support needs that other children do not face.



2.02

MILLION CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

There are over two million children with disabilities in Uganda in a population of 47 million. With an annual population growth of 3 percent, this number is increasing significantly each year. By 2060, with a predicted population of 104 million, there could be 4.5 million children with disabilities in Uganda. The need for support services, disability infrastructure, and jobs for people with disabilities will be an enormous human rights and economic issue in Uganda.

9%

OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ATTEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Of all children with disabilities in Uganda, only 9 percent of them attend primary school. This is a massive deficit. Children with disabilities are being denied their right to education for various factors that include stigma, mobility challenges, untrained teachers, and a lack of special education infrastructure.

0.1%

OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR'S BUDGET IS SPENT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

Only 10 percent of children with disabilities have special education schools available to them and only 5 percent have inclusive schools available. Public financing for special education only makes up 0.1% of the education sector's budget.

OUR SOLUTION.



01. PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES.

We provide services across four main programs: Community Care, Transitional Care, Ekisa Academy, and Training & Equipping. These consist of medical support, therapy (occupational, physical, SLT), residential care, family empowerment, special education, vocational training, and more.

02. CREATE COMMUNITY.

We provide opportunities for people to come together, where stigma is broken and acceptance grows. This happens through our core groups, weekly gatherings of families seeking disability support, as well as Night to Shine, our annual prom for children with disabilities.

TRAINING & EQUIPPING

Ekisa's Training and Equipping Department was opened in 2020 to provide organizations, children's homes, and orphanages with the tools and knowledge necessary to support children with disabilities. It was built upon a decade of research and lessons learned from our work across our three other programs. The department aims to assist organizations in safely reintegrating children into families and enhancing their ability to work with this population. Despite the challenges of serving this under-resourced and underserved group, the department believes that every child deserves the best care possible. Our goal is to share our knowledge and assist organizations in providing the necessary resources to work with children with disabilities. With the right tools, knowledge, and partnerships, organizations everywhere can ensure that children with disabilities are not left behind.

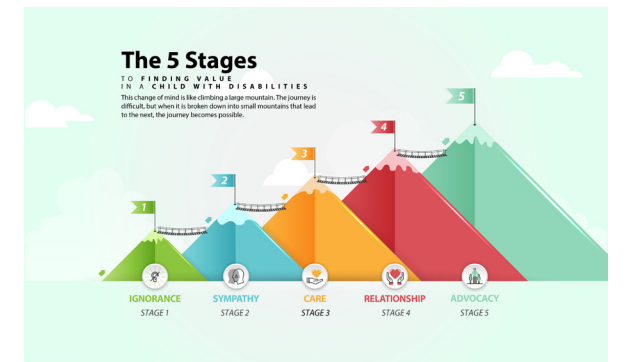
What the Training and Equipping Department provides for organizations:

Mentoring: You will receive a dedicated mentor with experience to help you deal with difficult cases, answer questions, and provide assistance in your Journey.

Tools and Resources: You will have access to our policies, procedures, flow charts, documentation, and tools.

Training: Access to training classes in counseling, social work, disability services, and other topics that will help your organization grow. You will be invited to any upcoming training, but you can also request a specific training at your location for your staff.

Consulting: When you are ready to make bigger changes, we can help by providing a team of consultants to come and develop an implementation plan for your organization to help you transition your model of care and achieve your strategic goals.



GENESIS, AN EKISA T&E WORKER LEADING A TRAINING IN KENYA



HOW WE DO IT

COMMUNITY CARE

Ekisa's Community Care Program aims to prevent the breakdown of families with special needs children and reduce unnecessary institutionalization. The program provides support services such as medical assistance, therapy, education, counseling, and financial empowerment to families facing poverty and stigma. By removing these barriers, Ekisa helps families gain access to the resources they need to raise their child with love and care. The program currently serves 160 families and has seen success in helping families overcome stigma and challenges in raising their children.

TRANSITIONAL CARE

Ekisa's Transitional Home provides care for 15 children with disabilities who have been separated from their families due to abandonment, neglect, abuse, or death of their parents. The program provides 24/7 care, therapy, medical treatment, and schooling to help children achieve developmental goals and learn their inherent value. The ultimate goal of the program is to place the children in loving families through reintegration, foster care, or adoption with the help of the social work team. Although challenging, the team has successfully placed children in adoptive families.

EKISA ACADEMY

Ekisa Academy provides a specialized Christian education to children living with disabilities in Uganda who do not have access to education. Since 2015, over 50 children in the Transitional Care and Community Care programs have attended the school, and for most, it is their first time attending school. Ekisa Academy offers a holistic approach to special education, providing physical therapy, multi-sensory room therapy, life skills training, and tailored lesson plans. The program empowers children to reach their potential while allowing parents to work and rest. Additionally, the program sends a message to the community that children with special needs are deserving of education, celebration, and investment.

2021/22



1 » **TOOL CREATED TO HELP TRAIN ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD**

Our Training & Equipping department developed finding value, a guide for social workers, counselors, pastors, and others to address stigma and discover how a child with disabilities can be valued within their family.

2 » **STUDENTS INTEGRATED INTO UGANDAN CLASSROOMS**

Our goal is to help public and private schools around Uganda become ready and equipped to support children with disabilities. We successfully integrated two more children into a classroom this year.

7 » **ACRES OF LAND PURCHASED FOR EKISA'S FUTURE HOME**

We successfully fundraised the purchase of seven acres of land to build Ekisa's permanent home. It will offer new services, such as an assisted living center for adults with disabilities.

7 » **ORGANIZATIONS TRAINED ACROSS EAST AFRICA**

Our Training & Equipping Department conducted online and in-person trainings for 7 organizations. We also consulted several organizations from around the world.

A **34** » **STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH HOME-SCHOOL PACKETS & HOME THERAPY**

As the pandemic continued to hamper our efforts to safely hold large group meetings, we responded by creating home school learning packets, teaching family members how to lead their children through them, and training parents to lead home therapy exercises for their children.

 **46** » **STUDENTS EDUCATED IN A COVID-FREE BUBBLE SCHOOL**

Once it was deemed safe and permissible to meet in groups again, we created a COVID-free bubble school program that enabled students to return to school.

160+ » **FAMILIES SERVED BY OUR COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM**

Over 160 families with children with disabilities were provided with life-saving medical assistance, therapy services, education, parent empowerment, and counseling.



MINISTRY ACHIEVEMENTS

21-22



WELCOME TO THE PERMANENT HOME OF EKISA MINISTRIES.

IN MARCH 2022, WE PURCHASED A SEVEN ACRE PLOT OF LAND
AFTER A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN CALLED
THE NEXT CHAPTER.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

A PERMANENT HOME

A PERMANENT HOME FOR EKISA MINISTRIES

This year, we made a significant leap toward one of the goals of our Next Chapter campaign: find a permanent home for Ekisa Ministries.

In July 2021, we traveled across the U.S. to meet with our supporters, sharing the shortcomings with our current location and a vision for a launchpad for our work in Uganda: a headquarters that would allow us to scale up our impact, both in Uganda and across the world. The new headquarters will allow us to serve more families, enroll more students, expand our efforts to serve adults through assisted living, grow our Training and Equipping Department for global impact, and so much more.

In March 2022, our dream took flight as we purchased a beautiful seven acre plot of land overlooking Lake Victoria and the Nile River. At last, Ekisa Ministries found a home.



Michael, an Ekisa Academy student learning on an iPad in a spacious classroom.



The new classrooms at Ekisa Academy will provide greater accessibility and capacity.



Patricia, an Ekisa Academy student, practicing grammar with an Ekisa Teaching Assistant.



STORIES OF IMPACT

CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT DISABILITY.

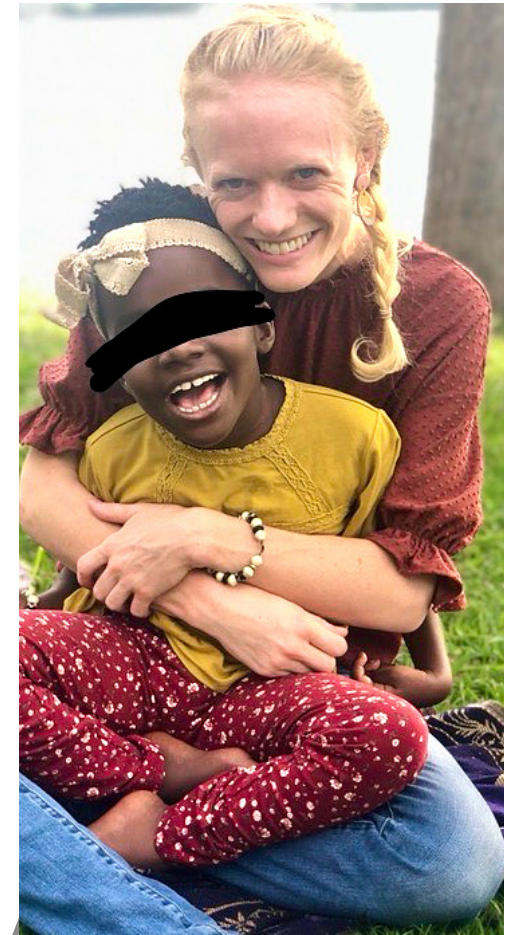
Zoey is a beautiful little girl in Uganda. After being abandoned at a hospital, she found her way into Ekisa's care. She spent time in two temporary foster homes during the COVID pandemic in 2020, before moving into Ekisa's Transitional Home. She was making tremendous progress, learning to walk, talk, and engage with the world and people around her. However, in the spring of 2021, Zoey had a major stroke. The damage from the stroke took away many of the skills and development progress she had made during her first few

years of life. Before her stroke, a Ugandan family had been considering Zoey for foster care. After praying through the new circumstances, they still chose to move forward and brought her home in June of 2021. Within days, she gained a loving mother, father, big brother, little brother, and extended family. She has made quick progress as she re-learns how to sit, crawl, talk, and eat independently. Every day, Zoey is laughing more, and to listen to her father talk about her is to witness unconditional love. Even in the uncertainty

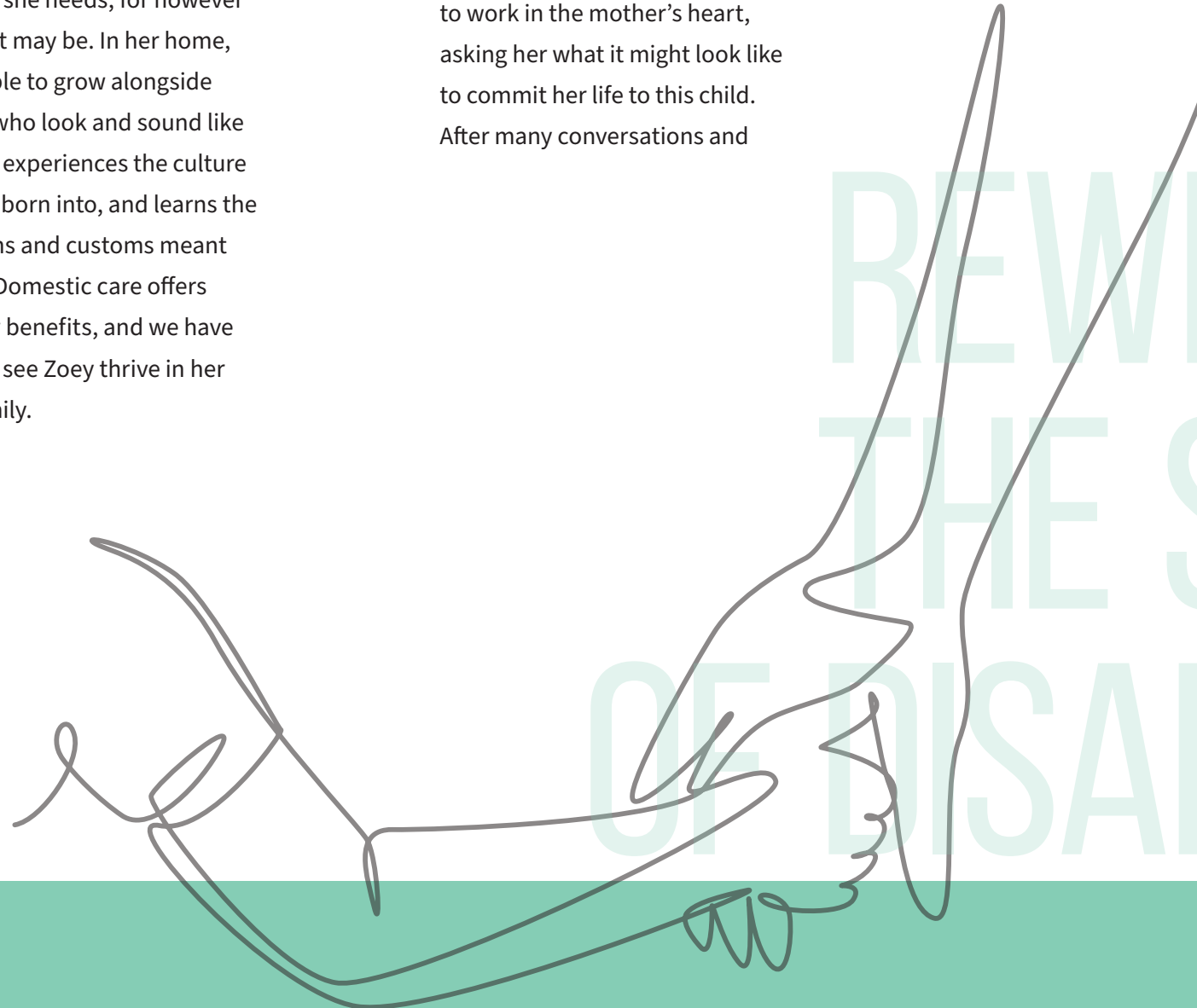
of her case, her foster parents have chosen to love her without reserve, sacrificing their time, money, and space to give her all the care she needs, for however long that may be. In her home, she is able to grow alongside people who look and sound like her. She experiences the culture she was born into, and learns the traditions and customs meant for her. Domestic care offers so many benefits, and we have loved to see Zoey thrive in her new family.

Shiloh is another beautiful girl in Uganda. She lived in our Transitional Home for nearly nine years. While she was abundantly loved as the 'princess' of our home, many caretakers and volunteers prayed for years that she would find a loving adoptive home, as years of tracing failed to identify her biological family. Then, during the pandemic, she moved out temporarily to a staff member's home. Through that staff member, another missionary was able to meet and get to know Shiloh. After Shiloh returned to Ekisa, God continued to work in the mother's heart, asking her what it might look like to commit her life to this child. After many conversations and

honest prayers, she took a leap of faith and brought Shiloh home in June of 2021. In her first year home, Shiloh has blossomed. She is happier and more engaged, she has grown in strength and communication. Her seizures have reduced and she has grown taller. She has a clear attachment to her mom and loves being in her own home. She is overwhelmingly loved, and forever cared for. We cannot wait to see what her future holds.



REWRITING THE STORY OF DISABILITY.



LEADERSHIP.



JARED SCHEPPMANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LYNET KAZIMURA
SOCIAL WORK DIRECTOR



ADAM KISAMBIRA
OPERATIONS &
RELATIONSHIPS DIRECTOR



BRIAN BWIRE
THERAPY DIRECTOR



BRENDA BUKIRWA
NURSING DIRECTOR



CHRIS NEGRETE
ASST. NURSING DIRECTOR



KATE TOLHURST
SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTOR



ALYSSA MCINTYRE
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR



SAM SSEMWANGA
BUSINESS MANAGER



LIV RICKETTS
TRAINING & EQUIPPING
MANAGER



ZAKAYO KISOZI
TRAINING & EQUIPPING
CONSULTANT



TINO CHRISTINE
HOME MANAGER



EVAN DINGLE
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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SUZANNE WILSON
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EX-OFFICIO

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SECRETARY

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BOARD MEMBER

NGANDA KENNETH
BOARD MEMBER

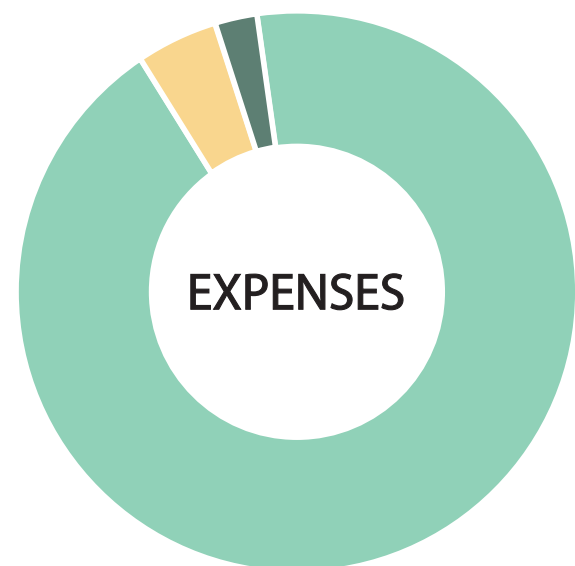
NABASUMBA JOAN
BOARD MEMBER

SERVANT LEADERS.

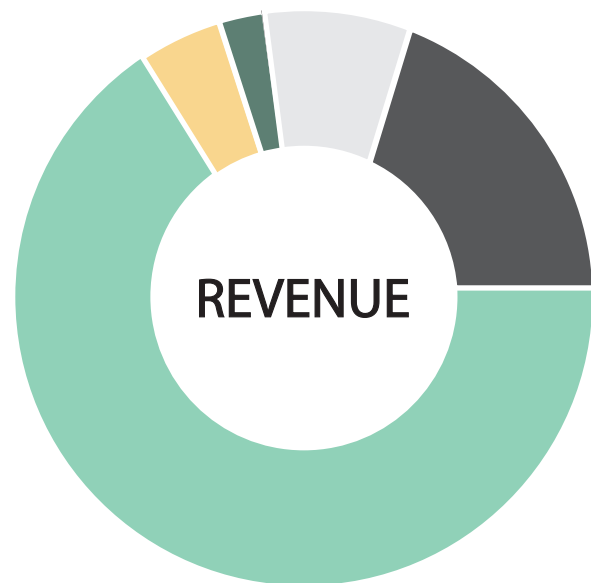
WE WORK. WE SERVE. WE CREATE. WE CHANGE.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-22



ADMINISTRATION	\$65,962
FUNDRAISING	\$31,161
PROGRAMS	\$465,607
TOTAL	\$562,731



ADMINISTRATION	\$12,573
FUNDRAISING	\$7,031
ADMINISTRATION	\$35,505
FUNDRAISING	\$196,996
PROGRAMS	\$498,853
TOTAL	\$750,957

OUR BEST YEAR YET

U.S. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW 2021/22

2021/22

2021 (SHORT)

Support / Revenue

Contributions	\$724,057	\$131,427
Total Support / Revenue	\$724,057	\$131,427

Functional Expenses

Program Services	\$670,099	\$152,908
General + Administrative	\$65,962	\$12,786
Fundraising	\$31,161	\$4,435
Total Functional Expenses	\$767,222	\$170,129

Other Misc. Revenue	\$33.04	\$7
Change in Net Assets	-\$43,132	-\$38,695
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$142,880	\$181,575
Net Assets, End of Year	\$99,748	\$142,880



2021/22 FINAL WORDS

AND THE ROAD GOES ON...

2021 was such a fantastic year, both for Ekisa and my family. Ekisa was still greatly affected by COVID in 2021, but the challenges and corresponding adjustments that COVID forced us to make actually helped one of Ekisa's dreams finally come true. When the second wave of COVID came through Uganda in June 2021, our programs had to pivot again and adjust in the face of another national lockdown and transportation ban. Our offices moved back to work from home and our Transitional Home went back into lockdown. These circumstances, however, gave my wife a crazy, but wonderful idea. If I was going to be working from home in Uganda, could I instead be working from the road in America while making a new kind of impact? Two weeks later, my wife, our two boys, and I were on a plane to our hometown of Las Vegas, and a few days after that we started up the RV and drove the first mile of what would become 11,000.

One of the unique things about Ekisa is that we don't have a U.S. base; there is a mailing address, but all of Ekisa's staff live and work in Uganda. Because of this, our donors come from all over the U.S. One downside of that is that I, and others who work at Ekisa, had never been able to meet face-to-face with so many of our amazing donors. Visiting 33 states in two months was a great way to solve that!

During our nine weeks on the road, we ate barbeque and drank sweet tea with old and new friends. We met people in backyards, restaurants, and churches. I was able to share how Ekisa has made an impact over the last decade for children with disabilities -- children like Jackson, who transitioned from living at our Transitional Home to living with his grandmother and attending a local school. I shared how important it is that we are helping children with the needs they are facing right now, while also changing their futures by strengthening their families and changing the communities they grow up in. I was able to tell people about how Ekisa was planning to increase our impact in the future by working on getting separated children all over Uganda back into families, expanding our services to new children in other cities, and helping other schools begin special education programs. This will give more children like Patrica, who moved from attending Ekisa Academy to a mainstream classroom at a school closer to her home, the opportunity for inclusive education.

Our dreams for the future are not only about the replication of our programs, but, more importantly, the adoption of our values by other organizations so that more and more children will find inclusion and receive the help and services they need. On our trip, I heard from people who have been inspired and encouraged by the work happening in Uganda and why they trust Ekisa as an organization. I was also able to build relationships with new people who were moved by hearing about the work we do and wanted to join in making a difference.

The main purpose of the trip was to share about Ekisa's dream to buy land and build a permanent home for the organization, and that was accomplished! I shared about having purpose-built buildings we would build and how the campus would enable us to increase our impact by serving new families, allowing us to better help other organizations, and by being a base from which we can serve other areas of Uganda. Casting that vision was amazing and person after person made donations so that we had enough money to buy a 7-acre plot (Yay God!)

I told everyone I spoke with that ultimately it was not about the buildings or the campus; they are just a means to an end. Ekisa has been on a mission not only to serve the children and families on our program and living in our care, but also to rewrite the story of disability so that the future they grow up in is different. A future where receiving love, acceptance, and services is not just something that happens inside our walls or within our programs but across our country as more people gain an understanding about disability and more organizations take up the call to serve those who need their help.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the dream of the Ekisa campus come true and thank you to everyone who supported Ekisa this year to allow us to serve so many wonderful children and families each day.



LET'S TELL A NEW STORY.

EKISA MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

» Rewriting the Story of Disability

CONTACT US

Ekisa Ministries International
8224 W. Charleston - Suite 1
Las Vegas, NV 89117
United States

M: info@ekisa.org
W: www.ekisa.org

2021/22

The cover features a background of overlapping, stylized mountain peaks in various shades of green. A solid green vertical bar is on the left side. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout.

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