



Lift Up the
Vulnerable

2023

Impact Report





LUV

Vision

We envision a world where vulnerable children and women are empowered and, through them, war-torn communities are transformed.

Mission

We exist to prevent the trafficking and oppression of vulnerable children and women and empower them to be changemakers in their communities.



A LUV Letter From Our CEO

At Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV), we believe empowered children and women are ready to lead the way and bring lasting change to their communities.

In Sudan and South Sudan, entire communities face extreme poverty, lack of infrastructure, and persistent conflict. Many children are orphaned and vulnerable to human trafficking. These children and families are longing for safety, freedom, and opportunity.

*With your support, we are preventing
human trafficking in warzones.*

No one should be trafficked. LUV works to prevent the trafficking and oppression of children and women in warzones by addressing the root causes of exploitation. We meet daily needs by providing protection, education, and economic development. These programs create lasting transformation from the ground up – facilitated by 190 local leaders and nearly 300 high school graduates from our indigenously led anti-trafficking network.

Your generosity in 2023 made a tremendous impact! You helped us protect and equip over 1,900 children, women, and men in these regions. Those once vulnerable to being kidnapped as child soldiers, trapped into forced labor, or sold into sex slavery are now writing new stories of hope, healing, and peacebuilding. They are shining Christ's light in the harshest corners of the world.

Included in this impact report are stories of some of the lives you helped us uplift, exciting new initiatives that we piloted last year, projects you helped us accomplish, our hopes for the future, and an overview of our commitment to the excellent stewardship of the resources you entrust to us.

As you'll see in this report, we have much to celebrate! However, with the ongoing war in Sudan, there is much more work to be done.

Please contact me if you'd like to learn how you can maximize your impact this year. I'm happy to share information about the benefit of monthly giving, donating stock, giving through your Donor Advised Fund, investing in our new reserve fund, or a special project.

At a time when violence defines the futures of many people in Sudan and South Sudan, **your impact is disrupting the pipeline to trafficking and restoring hope.** Together, we are equipping children and women to be changemakers in their own lives and communities. Thank you for your ongoing support!



With gratitude,
Audrey Moore
Chief Executive Officer

Our Model

Our model prevents trafficking and empowers children and women to thrive as change agents in their own lives and communities.





PROTECTION

Vulnerable children and women are empowered to thrive long-term by receiving safe housing, nutritious meals, clean water, as well as preventative and emergency medical care. These essential foundations alleviate numerous vulnerabilities that lead to exploitation. We offer these vital resources to support individuals on the path to self-sufficiency as we build up people to care for themselves and their communities.



EDUCATION

Students are equipped to grow intellectually and spiritually in our safe, Christ-centered schools. Children in our protection programs and students from the community are provided with formal education from pre-K through high school, along with nutritious meals and medical services. Graduates are offered continuing education through university scholarships and vocational training. We provide mentoring and leadership development to inspire students for a lifetime of learning and growth.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Communities are transformed through grassroots economic development which provides a catalyst to transition from dependency towards self-sufficiency and stability. Our anti-trafficking network indigenous partners and the children and women we serve are equipped to be innovative and self-sufficient. We invest in strategic initiatives such as large-scale farming, small business income generation, and savings groups to create a path towards economic independence and flourishing.

Past Year Highlights

Thanks to every individual and partner who helped us achieve these goals in 2023! You strengthen our work and fuel our vision to impact more lives in 2024.

20 YEARS

Celebrated 20 years of New Life Ministry (NLM) during a community-wide event that hosted international guests, **595 students**, **71 staff** from NLM, **10 interns**, and nearly **1,000 members of the community** (including alumni)!



LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH

100% of the board of directors invested in LUV's inaugural reserve fund.

8 new full-time jobs for local leaders in our anti-trafficking network.

12 alumni in nursing school served their community during a free clinic.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

127 acres of successfully farmed land at Hope For South Sudan (HFSS), resulting in zero malnutrition rate for all students and the production of 75% of their own food for consumption.

52 acres of successfully farmed land at Our Father's Cleft (OFC), including sorghum, maize, cowpeas, and sim-sim.

23 acres secured at New Life Ministry (NLM) for future farming starting in 2024.

LOCAL IMPACT

3 sites with solar-powered internet allow for meetings with our indigenous partners.

5 site visits by our Kenya team to strengthen and strategize with our indigenous partners.

1,139 people served by a medical mission team at NLM.

INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

Installed solar lighting at each center for increased security.

5 new latrines constructed at two centers.

Renovated NLM church.

23 acres fenced for future farming at NLM.

Delivered a new generator to NLM.

Delivered materials to build **8** new classrooms and **2** new latrines at OFC.

500 acres fenced at HFSS farm.

Sorghum drying structure built at HFSS farm.

Where We Work

In 2023, our programs directly empowered over 1,900 people at our three locations, reflecting our commitment to protection, education, and economic development.

We lead the only indigenously-directed anti-human trafficking network spanning Sudan and South Sudan.



Impact

Since 2018, our trafficking prevention programs have impacted the lives of **2,424** students, including **276** high school graduates and **17** college graduates.

148 new children were rescued from trafficking.

565 children were protected with safe housing, education, and three daily meals.

809 additional students from the community received Pre-K to 12th-grade education and two daily meals through our school feeding program.

92% average retention rate across all locations, with an average dropout age of 17.6 years.*

15 students received LUV scholarships for university or trade schools.

198 acres of expanded agriculture at three school farms.

531 local leaders benefited from economic development initiatives, including 171 staff positions, 19 internships, and 341 community members involved in infrastructure and agriculture projects.

7 students received life-saving emergency medical evacuations to Kenya, followed by recovery at our in-country safe-house.

75% of all consumed food was generated for the first time at Hope for South Sudan's 127-acre farm, our largest locally-led farming initiative.

*In high-risk areas, this is an incredible accomplishment from our local partners for providing academic excellence and a safe place for vulnerable children to thrive.

Stories of Impact



ANGELA

Seven-year-old Angela** narrowly escaped traffickers while her family engaged in subsistence farming. In the pursuit, a gunfight ensued, wounding Angela. Following this traumatic event, she hid in bushes, surviving with a flesh wound. Reunited with her parents, the joy of the reunion was overshadowed by the fear of losing her again. Seeking a safe haven, Angela's parents discovered our programs.



OHOLONG

Six-year-old Oholong** was just one year old when war ravaged his community, claiming the lives of his parents. His frail and aging grandmother took on the responsibility of caring for him but was unable to because she lacked access to medical care for herself and food for them both. Also fearing insecurity in the region, she discovered LUV's commitment to protecting children like Oholong. The young boy is now safe, attending school, and eating well.



BAKHITA

Twelve-year-old Bakhita** faced eye infections that limited her vision since 2021. Misunderstood and feared of being cursed, her family cast her out. After struggling to survive for nearly a year, a kind government official took her to Juba for treatment. Her infections persisted, and he turned to our local leaders in 2023, who facilitated her medical evacuation to Kenya, where she made a full recovery! Bakhita is now thriving in the care of LUV's anti-trafficking network.



MAYA

Seven-year-old Maya** faced hardships no child should have to endure at that age. Her father's death left her mother to navigate survival for the young family on her own. A pivotal moment came when a job opportunity opened up in our school. Maya's mother was hired for the position, which gave Maya access to the programs we offer to children of vulnerable women. With your invaluable support, Maya's family is finding strength through our education and economic development programs.



EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY

In 2023, you helped us prevent the trafficking of 1,374 children, opening doors to education for 148 new students – including providing housing for 79 of these children.

Ensuring **safe, stable, and nurturing** relationships and environments for all children is critical to our work at LUV. Our local partners provide physical protection and spiritual counseling to help the children in our anti-trafficking network become empowered and grow in resiliency.

Understanding adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) informs our care strategies, especially in Sudan and South Sudan, where exploitation rates are high due to conflict and extreme poverty.

Out of 1,312 children surveyed, 76% self-reported at least one ACE. This includes 36% experiencing two or three ACEs and 12% reporting four or more. The most common ACEs include physical and emotional neglect.*

Specific metrics track the unique challenges faced by students in warzones, such as family deaths due to lack of medical care or conflict. The children we assist come from diverse backgrounds marked by war, violence, poverty, and lack of healthcare access. Many have experienced hunger and loss firsthand.

The stories of Angela, Oholong, and Bakhita reflect the harsh realities of living in war-torn nations and the impossible scenarios children

must navigate – often alone. Yet, amidst these challenging narratives, there are instances when we can extend our help to the whole family after they grapple with the aftermath of a loss – like for Maya and her mother.

Research shows a correlation between ACEs and negative life outcomes, but your support helps mitigate risks and builds resilience. Although the remote communities we operate in often lack accessible resources for assistance, your donation helps us provide protective factors and supportive services that aid in preventing further harm and fostering stability for vulnerable children.

Your generosity ensures these children receive the care and support they need to thrive despite the many adversities they face.

In the most challenging corners of the world, where LUV serves, your investment becomes a beacon of hope, fostering **healing and empowerment** for children and women alike. Your generosity equips us to provide life-saving care for children in dire need, and your ongoing support helps us stand with these children and families as they grow strong through our programs.

**The use of a storytelling model allowed children to freely share about their lives without prompting or pressure. In reality, we know ACEs are prevalent at even higher rates for the children in our programs but are not reflected in our data.*

***Our commitment is to keep children safe online, and because the children are under the age of 18, their names were changed to protect their identities.*

Stories of Impact



CELEBRATING SUCCESS THROUGH EDUCATION

In 2023, you helped us celebrate the high school graduation of 53 seniors and 5 university students – with 276 high school seniors and 17 college students graduating from our scholarship program since 2018!

As students journey from pre-K to graduation, our commitment to education is unwavering. We envision a world where vulnerable individuals are empowered, catalyzing transformation in wartorn communities. To realize this vision, we invest in students' long-term growth, nurturing bright minds and compassionate leaders.

Your generosity, coupled with the dedication of our local leaders, reshapes narratives of hope and healing for our students. Our schools maintain a remarkable 92% retention rate, offering a safe haven for vulnerable children. Since 2018, our trafficking prevention programs have impacted 2,424 students, yielding 276 high school and 17 college graduates – including 5 in 2023.

Susan epitomizes the transformative power of education. Orphaned at a young age, she found

refuge in LUV's network. Through your support, she graduated high school in 2018. Her dream of becoming a doctor led her to pursue nursing, culminating in her graduation in 2023.

Susan's journey underscores the impact of your generosity. Her words reflect gratitude for the opportunities she received: *"I praise the Lord for the good life that he has given me... I know how to read and write, and I can also speak English fluently. I would like to become a doctor to help many people in South Sudan and all over the world."*

As we celebrate Susan's success and that of many others, we recognize that your support is instrumental in shaping brighter futures. Together, we nurture dreams, transform communities, and instill hope for the next generations.

Looking Ahead

We have big dreams for the future of our anti-trafficking network. Over the next five years, we aim to finalize all infrastructure needs, achieve our economic development and food security goals, increase the quality of care we offer through our trauma-informed protection, education, and discipleship programs, and create a sustainable future. In 2024, with the help of our partners, we'll make significant strides to achieve these God-sized plans. Below are milestones we seek to accomplish with each of our primary partners.



New Life Ministry (NLM)

In 2023, we acquired 23 acres of future farmland for NLM in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan. This year, we will devise a comprehensive five-year strategic plan for our farming initiatives at this location, propelling them towards food independence. Additionally, we're making plans for both medical and pastor training to continue through visiting teams. We hope both will enhance the support available to the broader community and equip pastors to be front-line responders to trafficking prevention in their areas.



Hope For South Sudan (HFSS)

In Eastern Equatoria, we achieved the milestone of generating 75% of all consumed food for the first time on our farm. This significant achievement, attained within three years since our farming partnership with Rise Against Hunger commenced in 2020, has substantially reduced dependence on imported food. In 2024, we will focus on strengthening the implementation of nutrition-smart farming practices and expanding our reach to foster greater community impacts. We plan to inaugurate a farm school for 30 community participants, enhancing food security and mitigating exploitation in vulnerable communities.



Our Father's Cleft (OFC)

In the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, the pervasive conflict has exacerbated an already dire situation, with nearly 9 million people displaced and in urgent need of support. With the assistance of our partners, we have already enrolled 51 new children affected by conflict in our protection and education programs. Moving forward, we aim to bolster community responses to address the pressing needs through our economic development initiatives.

Additionally, as resources permit, we seek to undertake various infrastructure projects throughout our anti-trafficking network, including constructing a new kitchen, renovating dormitories, fresh coats of paint for classrooms, and upgrading our education facilities.

Financial Overview

Your generosity helped us raise **\$2,338,321** for our protection, education, and economic development programs.

REVENUE

Individual Donors
\$853,920

Organizational Partners
\$322,386

Stock Donations
\$16,730

Monthly Donors
\$367,451

Church Partners
\$47,076

Other Income
\$9,581

Foundations
\$687,687

Corporate Partnerships
\$33,489

EXPENSES

86% of organization expenses were invested in protection, education, economic development, infrastructure, nutrition, and medical care for programs in Africa. **14%** was invested in administrative costs, including management, development, financial planning, and reporting.

South Sudan
\$1,313,528

Sudan
\$571,878

Kenya
\$92,439

USA
\$320,510



Protection **\$754,087**

Education **\$713,938**

Economic Development **\$298,912**

Construction **\$210,908**



Our passionate staff, indigenous partners, and board of directors work together to identify and address root causes of exploitation and build solutions for long-lasting, positive change.



EXECUTIVE LEADERS

Audrey Moore
Chief Executive Officer

Eugenio Kirima
Chief Program Officer

James Lual Atak
Executive Director of New Life Ministry
(Northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan)

Peter Lomago
Executive Director of Hope For South Sudan
(Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan)

Ezekiel Ayub
Executive Director of Our Father's Cleft
(Nuba Mountains, Sudan)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Transform the world
by empowering the
most vulnerable.



Lift Up the
Vulnerable

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