



BRIGHT Impact Report 2023-2024



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1. Foreword from the Founder

BRIGHT: lighting the path to a brighter future for all.



Our vision: a world where everyone can access education, vocational training and psychosocial support, regardless of circumstances, where people with special needs are fully included, where sport unites, and where empowerment is not an exception but the rule for every individual and community.

Between 2023 and 2024, BRIGHT more than doubled the number of places in its structured programmes, from 40 to 87. In total, our programmes reached about 90 people in 2023 and about 100 in 2024. Behind that figure are young people who picked up a camera for the first time, children who trained in tennis throughout the year, and refugee women who left our centre with a business idea and the tools to plan it.

In 2023 we laid the foundations. Twenty students from Saint Thérèse orphanage learnt photography, twenty children trained in tennis, and young refugees learnt how to apply for scholarships abroad. We also gave mental health its own place in our work.

In 2024 we built on them. We opened the Lens on Life – Bright Lab, our own photography training centre. Three of our learners won Canon MIRAISHA scholarships. Fifteen students sat the Duolingo English test they could not otherwise have afforded, and two African universities came to meet our students. I carried our experience to Nairobi, to the first summit of the African Refugee Women-Led Network.

This report brings those two years together. It shows what our learners achieved, what our partners made possible, and where we still need to measure our impact better. To every learner, volunteer, trainer and partner: thank you.

Liliane Uwase, Founder and Executive Director

2. Impact at a glance



Places in BRIGHT's structured programmes more than doubled, from 40 in 2023 to 87 in 2024, and tennis, photography and education each grew in reach.

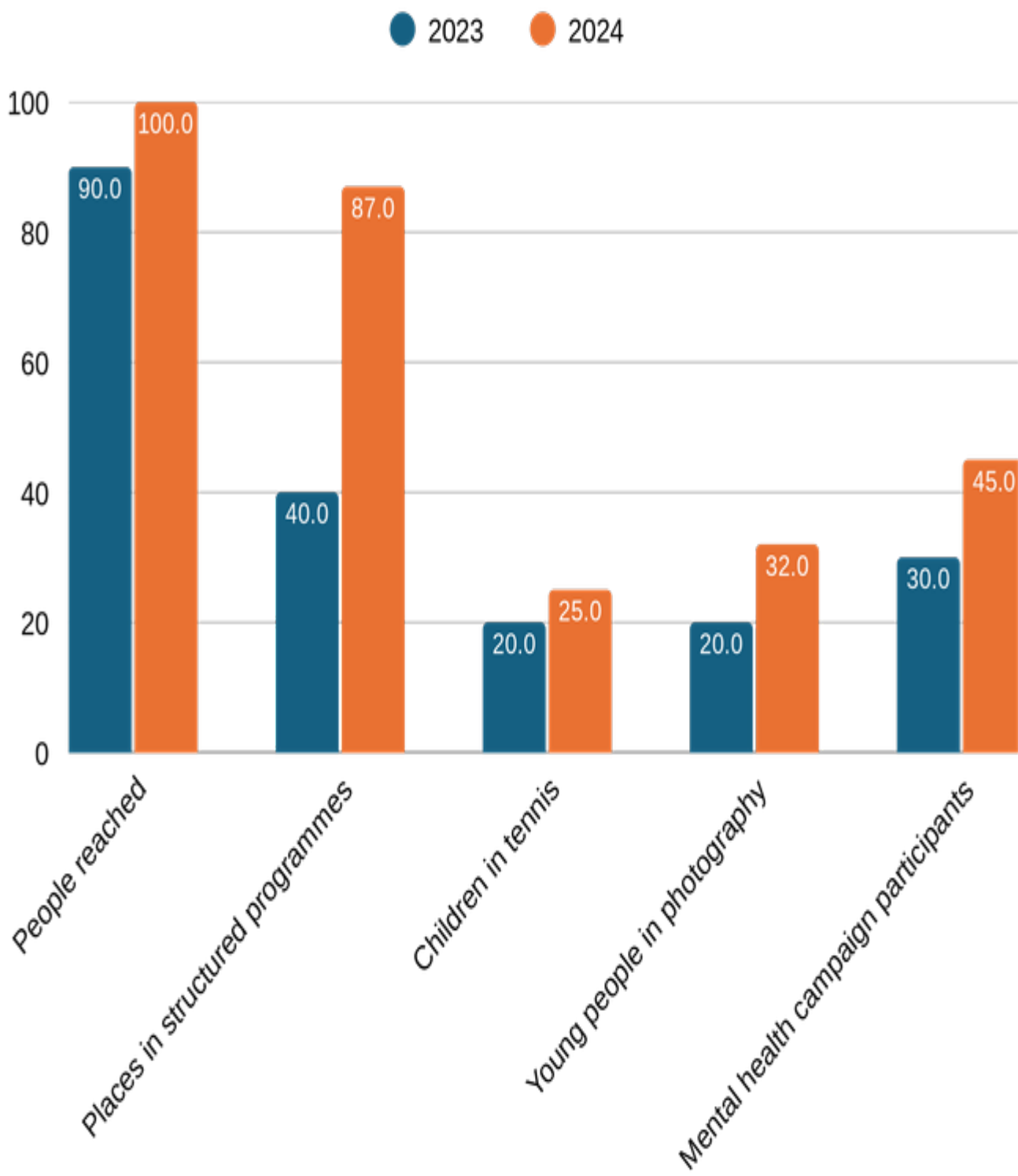
Result	2023	2024
Estimated people reached across all programmes	About 90	About 100
Places in structured programmes (tennis, photography, entrepreneurship, English tests)	40	87
Children trained in tennis, January–December	20	25
Young people in photography training	20 (Saint Thérèse workshop)	32 (20 Canon YPP + 12 MIRAISHA)
Photography scholarships won		3 (Canon MIRAISHA)
Photographs exhibited / exhibition visitors		60+ / 200
Refugee women and girls certified in entrepreneurship		15
Students who sat an English test on scholarship		15
Universities hosted		2
Funds raised for tennis training of young orphans		500,000 FCFA

Training centres opened		1 (Lens on Life – Bright Lab)
Mental health campaigns	1 (30 participants)	1 (45 participants)





Key results, 2023 vs 2024







3. Who we are: BRIGHT, lighting the path to a brighter future for all

BRIGHT is a refugee-led organisation established with a singular purpose: to support those in the most vulnerable conditions. Our team, many of whom have experienced displacement first-hand, works with refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, asylum seekers, orphans, abandoned children, older people and persons with special needs. We are based in Efoulan, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

3.1 Our vision

A world where everyone can access education, vocational training and psychosocial support, regardless of circumstances. A future where people with special needs are fully integrated into society, and where empowerment is not an exception but the rule for every individual and community. A world where sport is a powerful tool for unity, health and personal development.

3.2 Our mission in five commitments and what they meant in 2023–2024

Commitment	What it means	How we delivered it in 2023–2024

1. Promote education	Access to quality learning for vulnerable people	Return-to-school scholarships; scholarship mentoring; 15 Duolingo English Test scholarships; university visit by CMU-Africa and USIU-Africa
2. Provide vocational training	Skills that lead to independence and inclusion	Lens on Life photography (52 training places, 3 MIRAISHA scholarships); entrepreneurship and digital marketing for 15 refugee women and girls
3. Offer psychosocial care	Helping people affected by trauma to heal and rebuild their lives	Mental health support campaigns (2023 and 2024); creative expression through photography
4. Promote sport	Bringing people together, promoting health and teaching life skills	Year-round tennis for 20 children (2023) and 25 children (2024); 500,000 FCFA raised
5. Empower individuals and communities	Building confidence, leadership and self-sufficiency	Leadership mentoring; Empower Her Through Innovation; BRIGHT's role in the first ARWNET Summit

The need is great: UNICEF estimated that 4.7 million people in Cameroon, including 2.5 million children, required humanitarian assistance in 2023. BRIGHT offers several ways in (a classroom, a camera, a tennis court, a business idea) so that each person can take the next step towards a brighter future.

4. Lens on Life photography programme



In two years, the photography programme BRIGHT runs with the Lens on Life Project grew from a workshop into a training centre, a public exhibition, a photobook and three international scholarships. Lens on Life has worked with BRIGHT in Yaoundé since 2021, and our learners follow the Canon Young People Programme (YPP).

	2023	2024
Young people trained	20 (Saint Thérèse workshop)	32 (20 Canon YPP + 12 MIRAISHA)
Where	BRIGHT premises and outdoor sessions	Lens on Life – Bright Lab, our own centre

Showcase	Outdoor practice at Bois Sainte-Anastasie	Exhibition of 60+ photographs, 200 visitors, CRTV coverage
Next steps for learners	Graduations and media placements (to be documented)	3 Canon MIRAISHA scholarships

4.1 2023: building the foundations

- **January: photography outing at Bois Sainte-Anastasie.** Students took their cameras outdoors to practise what they had learnt, choosing their own subjects and experimenting with light and composition.
- **March: Lens on Life visit and new equipment.** Lens on Life provided additional computers and cameras, and the number of participating students increased.
- **All year: continuous teaching.** Trainer Daniel Beloumou, who joined the programme in 2022, continued to teach the students.
- **Canon YPP projects.** Each student developed a personal photography project on a Sustainable Development Goal of their choice, linking practical skills with reflection on the world around them.
- **October–December: workshop for 20 students from Saint Thérèse orphanage.** Over three months, the students learnt photography and developed practical skills in a creative setting of their own.

4.2 2024: a home for creative learning

- **28 March: exhibition and opening of the Lens on Life – Bright Lab.** After six months of intensive Canon YPP training, learners exhibited more than 60 photographs from across Yaoundé to 200 visitors, and each graduate received a certificate. Professional American photographers ran workshops, several works were published in a photobook, and the event was covered by CRTV television and radio.
- **30–31 March: field trip to Fouban.** A group of nine (members of Lens on Life and BRIGHT, and three learners) photographed the Royal Palace, local artisans and traditional ceremonies, and met the Sultan and local authorities to discuss cultural and educational cooperation.
- **April–August: new Canon YPP cohort of 20 learners.** The online training covered photography and editing in Lightroom, and each learner built a photo project on a Sustainable Development Goal.
- **July: photography class** at the BRIGHT centre.

- **6–27 September: MIRAISHA course for 12 young people.** Canon-accredited trainer Michel Lunanga, connecting live from Congo, taught exposure, composition, light and Lightroom editing, with a field session at Yaoundé City Hall. Participants showed a marked improvement in skills and developed personal styles.
- **October: three Canon MIRAISHA scholarships.** Through Lens on Life and Canon Middle East, Erika, Preston and Stacy won scholarships to study photojournalism, filmmaking and screenwriting.

Impact: our learners' work now appears in a photobook and on national television, and three of them are pursuing studies in visual media.

4.3 Preston's journey



Preston is an internally displaced young person who, with BRIGHT's support, returned to school. In 2021 Preston joined our the Lens On Life photography programme and won a Canon MIRAISHA scholarship in 2024 to study filmmaking at IFCPA-CRTV (Institute for Training and Conservation of Audiovisual Heritage).

“BRIGHT has given me hope and a chance to pursue my dreams.” This path, from displacement to the classroom to an international scholarship, is the brighter future our work is built for.

5. Tennis programme



BRIGHT's tennis programme grew from 20 children in 2023 to 25 in 2024, a 25% increase, and attracted 500,000 FCFA of dedicated funding. The programme promotes inclusion, wellbeing, gender equality and solidarity between communities, and encourages both girls and boys to play.

	2023	2024
Children trained (January–December)	20	25
Partner	Tennis Club de Yaoundé	Tennis Club de Yaoundé

Funding and equipment	Invitation to a fundraising tournament	500,000 FCFA raised; tennis equipment received
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5.1 2023: opening the court

- **January–December: year-round training for 20 children.** Tennis gave them a shared activity in which progress comes through patience, repeated effort and encouragement from others.
- **August: visit from the Tennis Club de Yaoundé.** Mr Éric Tanga visited BRIGHT with a representative of Canada's diplomatic mission and invited us to take part in an international tennis tournament raising funds to train vulnerable children. This invitation led to the funding received in May 2024.

5.2 2024: growing the squad

- **January–December: year-round training for 25 children** in partnership with the Tennis Club de Yaoundé. The children also received tennis equipment.
- **May: 500,000 FCFA for young orphans.** Under the patronage of the Tennis Club de Yaoundé and in collaboration with the Diplomats' Tournament, a Cameroonian delegation handed over 500,000 FCFA to support tennis training for young orphans, the result of the tournament invitation received in August 2023.

Impact: a sport that is usually out of reach for displaced and orphaned children became part of their everyday life, supported by a growing network of sporting and diplomatic partners.

6. Other activities and partnerships

Beyond photography and tennis, BRIGHT carried out seven activities with partners and communities in 2023 and 2024. Each is listed separately below, in date order. In 2023, 50 people took part in activities 1 to 3.

6.1 Return-to-school scholarships: visit of Mrs Constance Ejuma (May 2023)



Mrs Constance Ejuma, a Cameroonian actress based in the United States and founding president of the Essungue Ejuma Foundation, visited BRIGHT. She met internally displaced children whose return to school she had funded through scholarships, and encouraged them in their studies.

Impact: internally displaced children were able to resume their schooling.

6.2 Scholarship and leadership mentoring for refugees (2023)

BRIGHT developed mentoring programmes to help young refugees understand scholarship opportunities around the world and how to apply for them. Participants learnt to write a strong motivation letter, to work towards excellent classroom results, and to develop as community leaders.

Impact: young refugees gained the knowledge and skills to prepare international scholarship applications.

6.3 Mental health support campaigns (August 2023 and July 2024)

BRIGHT organised a first campaign on mental health in August 2023 (30 participants) and a second in July 2024 (45 participants), during the Empower Her Through Innovation training for refugee women and girls (see 6.4), giving wellbeing a dedicated place alongside education, creative learning and sport.

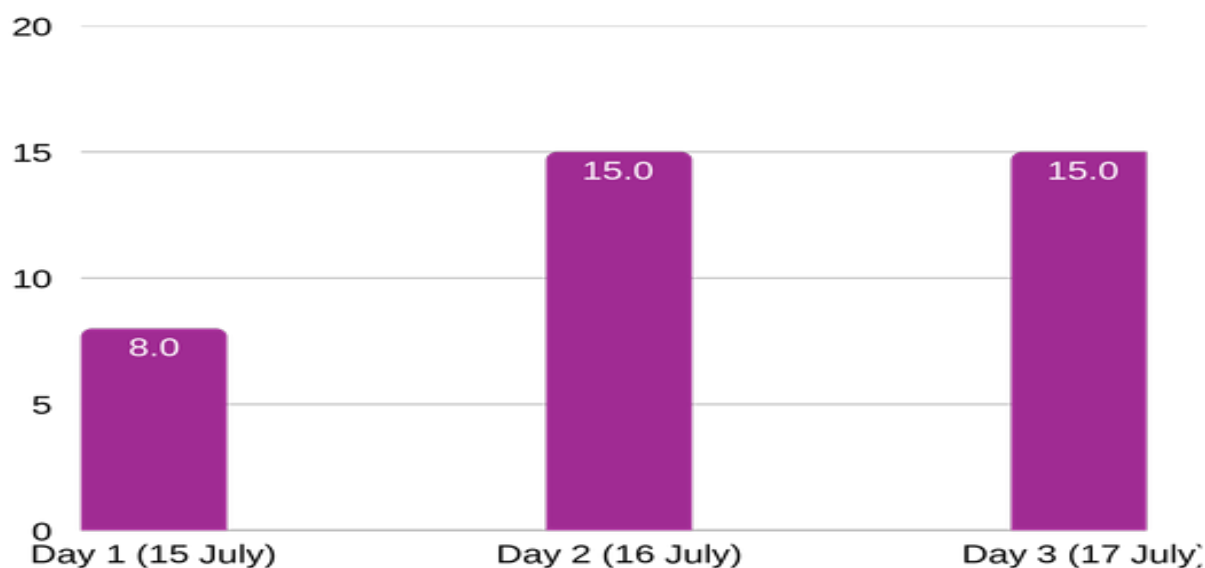
Impact: wellbeing became a recognised part of BRIGHT's work with young people.

6.4 Empower Her Through Innovation, Migration Summit 2024 (15–17 July 2024)



As part of the Migration Summit 2024, BRIGHT ran three days of training for refugee women and girls at its centre in Efoulan. Four facilitators (Deutch Laure, Djounang Axel, Maliago Ingrid and Herman Pouokam) covered developing a business idea, market research, financial forecasting, digital marketing on Facebook and Instagram, and business psychology. Attendance grew from 8 on the first day to 15 on each of the next two days.

Empower Her Through Innovation: attendance by day



Impact: 15 refugee women and girls were certified and left with a business idea, a method to test it and their own social media business pages. A WhatsApp group keeps participants and trainers in contact.

6.5 Duolingo English Test scholarships (partnership signed 7 August 2024)

BRIGHT signed a partnership with the Duolingo English Test so that our students can sit the test at no cost. Many universities require proof of English for admission, and for students who studied mainly in French, the test fee is often a barrier. Because the test is taken online, students do not need to travel to a test centre.

Impact: 15 students sat the Duolingo English Test through these scholarships, bringing them a step closer to their academic goals.

6.6 Visit of university partners: CMU-Africa and USIU-Africa (28 August 2024)



Abraham Darriel of Carnegie Mellon University Africa (Rwanda), and Liliane Makinia and Dolly Mwiti of United States International University–Africa, visited BRIGHT. They toured our premises and photo exhibition, presented scholarship opportunities to our students, and discussed student mobility, exchange agreements for undergraduate and A-Level students, and dual degrees.



6.7 First ARWNET Summit, Nairobi (16–19 December 2024)



BRIGHT's founder, as Head of Communication of the African Refugee Women-Led Network, joined refugee women leaders from Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. Sponsored by Oxfam with Independent Diplomat, and with UNHCR and Cohere taking part, the summit trained participants in leadership, resource mobilisation, evidence-based advocacy and diplomacy. Liliane Uwase shared BRIGHT's approach to tackling poverty through education, advocacy, agriculture and entrepreneurship, documented the summit in photos and video, and wrote its 33-page report.

7. Our partners 2023–2024

Every result in this report was achieved with partners. We thank each of them.

Partner	Area	Years	Contribution
Lens on Life Project	Photography	2023, 2024	Training, cameras and computers, the new Lab, Fouban trip, scholarships
Tennis Club de Yaoundé	Tennis	2023, 2024	Year-round training; fundraising tournament
Canadian diplomatic mission; Diplomats' Tournament	Tennis	2023, 2024	Tournament invitation; 500,000 FCFA for young orphans
Mrs Constance Ejuma (Essungue Ejuma Foundation)	Education	2023	School scholarships for internally displaced children
Migration Summit 2024	Economic empowerment	2024	Framework for Empower Her Through Innovation
Duolingo English Test	Education	2024	English test scholarships
Carnegie Mellon University Africa, USIU-Africa	Education	2024	Scholarship information; student mobility discussions
ARWNET, Oxfam, Independent Diplomat, UNHCR, Cohere	Advocacy	2024	First ARWNET Summit, Nairobi

We also thank our trainers: Daniel Beloumou, Michel Lunanga, Deutch Laure, Djounang Axel, Maliago Ingrid and Herman Pouokam.

8. Lessons learnt and challenges

Our biggest lesson from two years is that access works best when it comes with guidance and a clear next step, and that we must measure where that next step leads.

- **Access needs guidance.** Cameras and computers made a difference because trainers taught students how to use them; scholarship information became useful once applicants learnt to write a motivation letter.
- **Practice outside the classroom works.** The Bois Sainte-Anastasie outing, the Fouban trip and the Yaoundé City Hall field session gave learners real conditions to apply their skills.
- **We count activity better than impact.** We record enrolments, certificates and attendance, but not yet what participants achieve afterwards: graduations, admissions, businesses started or income earned. The same person may also appear in more than one programme.
- **Attendance and time.** At Empower Her Through Innovation, lateness affected the first two days and practical demonstrations were cut short.
- **Barriers our participants face.** Refugee women describe discrimination, unemployment, gender-based violence and social norms that limit their participation; travel documents and visas restrict access to international opportunities.
- **Funding.** Limited and short-term funding constrains how far programmes can grow, a challenge shared across the ARWNET network.
- **From discussion to agreement.** The university visit and the tennis tournament invitation opened doors; turning them into signed agreements and lasting funding takes consistent follow-up.

9. Looking ahead

Our next priority is to prove long-term impact: to follow each learner from training to their next step, while growing the programmes that work.

1. **Track outcomes, not just participation.**
2. **Grow the Lens on Life photography programme.**
3. **Expand the tennis programme.**
4. **Open more doors to higher education.**
5. **Support refugee women's economic independence.**
6. **Strengthen wellbeing and advocacy.**
7. **Diversify funding sources.**

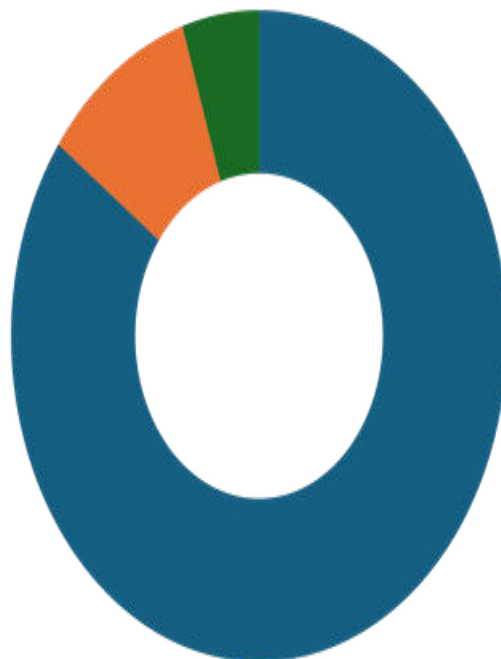
10. Reporting basis and financial transparency

This report covers January 2023 to December 2024. It describes activities and participation; it does not claim measured changes in income, school results, admissions or mental health. Financial statements for 2023 and 2024 are published in a separate financial report.

Our commitment to financial transparency. BRIGHT's stated allocation is 85% of all donations to programmes, 10% to administration and 5% to fundraising.

How each donation is allocated

● Programmes ● Administration ● Fundraising



Thanks you

To all our partners, supporters,
volunteers and advocates who make
our impact possible.

