international needs
transformed lives, changed communities

2023 Impact Report

A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a year 2023 turned out to be for International Needs! With life beginning to settle back into a sense of normalcy after the challenges of the last few years, we've felt new energy and inspiration within our Canadian team and among our partners globally.

Throughout the year, I had the privilege to meet with partners, welcome new members to our team, and accompany supporters to see the projects in person. Every visit leaves a lasting impression on me, whether it's hearing the uplifting songs of women in Zambia, witnessing teenagers' faces light up as they tackle a tough math problem in Uganda, or seeing basic amenities reach previously underserved areas like the slums in Kenya. **These experiences reaffirm the impact of the work we do and fill me with gratitude.**

As we look forward to 2024, I know it will be just as extraordinary. **This year holds special significance for International Needs Canada as we mark 50 years of impact!** On July 7, 1974, International Needs was founded by Dr. Ray Harrison from New Zealand, starting with a small house in Bangladesh to shelter six orphaned children. Today, International Needs operates in 34 countries, and supports thousands of children and families every year! **Thank you for standing with the most vulnerable in society these past 50 years – your commitment is what impacts change and transforms communities.**

I hope you enjoy reading about the highlights from 2023, and be sure to watch for exciting updates and events to commemorate this special 50th anniversary together!

Thank you,

David Marshall
Executive Director
International Needs Canada

"Thank you so much for your support! Having the opportunity to receive a quality education means the world to my family and me, and it's the first step toward my dream of becoming a doctor one day. Plus, going to school has introduced me to activities like dance and music, which I've come to really enjoy! I'm truly grateful for your kindness and generosity."

- Taileng, Bangladesh

Highlights of 2023

Child Sponsorship (INCAP)

To all our sponsors, we want to stress the immense impact of your monthly gifts—not only what you provide, but also the problems you help to prevent. Without sponsorship, many of these children wouldn't have access to education, which too often leads to issues like limited job opportunities, substance abuse disorders, and child marriage. **As a sponsor, you play a crucial role in guiding children away from these harmful paths, instilling them with hope to envision a better future for themselves and the courage to pursue it.**

Group Sponsorship (INGAP)

While we celebrate every child transformed through individual child sponsorship, hundreds more unsponsored children eagerly wait for the same opportunity. **Since introducing the group sponsorship model in 2020, you've helped to bridge that gap, ensuring no child in need is overlooked and goes without sponsorship within a school.** Each child benefits from good education, learning materials, daily meals, family support, and medical care, all of which work to break the cycle of generational poverty.

Student Sponsorship (INSAP)

Your support for this program enables youth to pursue higher education, as in many of our partner countries, this cost of sending youths to high school can greatly exceed the costs that standard sponsorship allows. **As a sponsor of this program, your generosity ensures that youths can pursue their education uninterrupted, from junior high to high school, and even into college or university, paving the way for brighter futures and endless opportunities.**

1,732 Canadians supported 2,077 children through INCAP across 10 countries!	105 Canadians supported 09 child protection programs across 03 countries!	92 Canadians supported 05 agricultural programs across 03 countries!
143 Canadians supported 829 children through INGAP across 06 countries!	351 Canadians supported 07 women empowerment programs across 06 countries!	109 Canadians supported 05 health programs across 05 countries!
02 Canadian organizations supported 41 children through INSAP across 01 country!	129 Canadians supported 08 vocational training programs across 06 countries!	305 Canadians supported 03 WASH projects across 02 countries!

"My sponsorship journey started when I was in grade 1, and it continued all the way through university! Now, I hold a bachelor's degree in business administration and run a small boutique. My journey stands as a testament to the impact of sponsorship - it guided me through tough times growing up and helped shape me into the woman I am today."

– Lydia, Uganda

Women's Empowerment

In many countries, gender inequality is a big challenge, with women encountering barriers like restricted access to education and jobs, discrimination, and domestic violence. No woman should ever feel trapped in cycles of exploitation and abuse with nowhere to seek refuge. That's why it's so important to empower women with the freedom and opportunities to care for themselves and their children. **When you lend your support to women empowerment programs, you give women in male dominated societies the chance to take control of their lives.**

Vocational Training

For youth, vocational training provides them with an even stronger educational foundation, giving them the option of not only pursuing university but trades and apprenticeships too. For parents, it opens doors to improved job prospects and higher earning potential, providing opportunities they may have lacked in their own upbringing. **Empowering both youth and parents with skills has a twofold impact, fostering stronger support systems within families and boosting self-confidence for all involved.**

Child Protection and Advocacy

At International Needs, safeguarding children is a top priority because poverty puts them at a high risk of exploitation, neglect, and abuse. **To address this, you've helped to set up drop-in centres, safe houses, and boarding schools to shield children from harm and provide them with a secure space to learn and thrive.** Your support for these initiatives also enables program leaders to champion children's rights and protections within their communities, raising awareness about issues like child labour and early marriage, and working to prevent them.

WASH (Water Access, Sanitation, Hygiene)

WASH projects focus on bringing clean water to communities through boreholes or pipelines, building latrines, and educating residents on the importance of sanitation and hygiene. These initiatives have many secondary benefits too. For instance, they contribute to socioeconomic development by reducing time spent battling waterborne illness and increasing opportunities for economic growth. And they promote gender equality by giving women and girls more time to focus on education instead of spending hours a day fetching water. **It's incredible to see how fixing the water problem sets off a chain reaction, tackling other community issues and showing just how powerful water can be, much like education.**

Health and Well-Being

Good health is fundamental to a child's ability to grow and learn effectively. Our partners ensure children's well-being by offering nutritious meals at school, delivering quarterly or as-needed medical care, and teaming up with Canadian medical professionals to provide comprehensive health education, screenings, prevention measures, treatments, and referrals to specialists or hospitals. By supporting these initiatives, you're nurturing healthier and happier lives for every child in these communities.

Agriculture

International Needs' agricultural projects cover a wide range, including vegetable cultivation, livestock raising, and fish farming within schools. These initiatives not only improve students' access to nutritious food but also offer valuable skill training and economic opportunities for the community. By supporting these projects, you help communities become more and more self-sufficient and less reliant on external aid. **Your support will empower communities to the extent that they will become self-sufficient.**

Financial Report

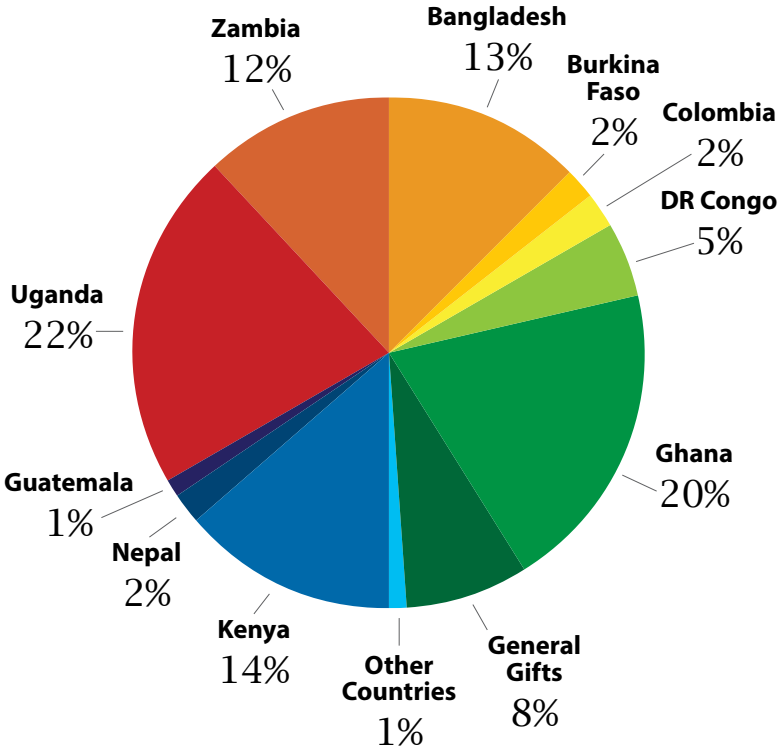
Your Gifts

Donations to Projects & Programs	$	2,089,571
Donations to Overhead	$	732,713
Total Donations	**$**	**2,822,284**

Where your gifts went

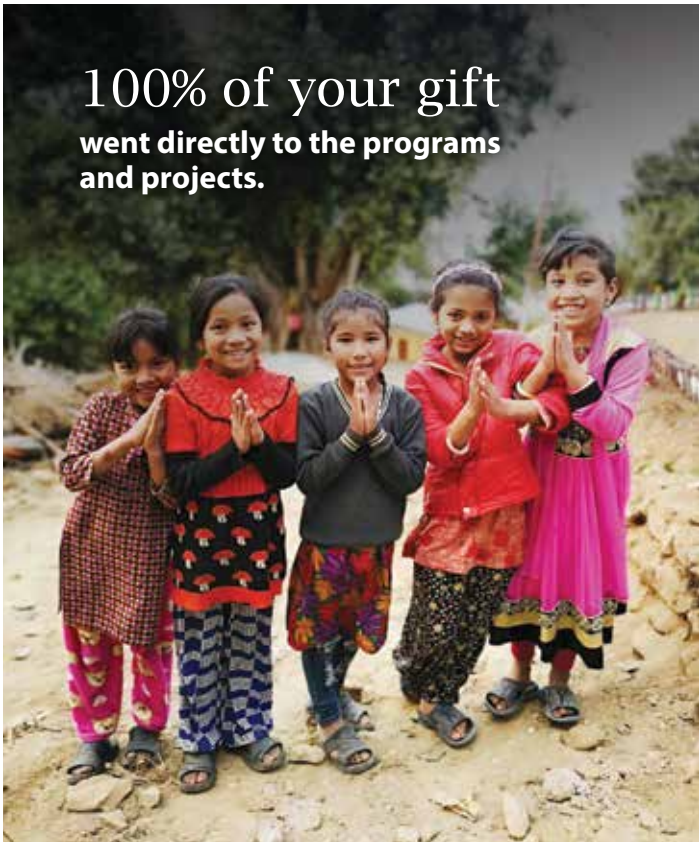
Bangladesh	$	267,136
Burkina Faso	$	41,508
Colombia	$	38,757
DR Congo	$	110,266
Ghana	$	420,032
General Gifts	$	160,596
Guatemala	$	16,123
Kenya	$	289,007
Nepal	$	37,805
Other Countries *	$	17,425
Uganda	$	476,092
Zambia	$	246,088
Total Programs and Projects	**$**	**2,120,835**

* Czech Republic, India, Philippines, Turkey



2023 Revenues

Total donations increased slightly in 2023, thanks to your generous support. Child sponsorships make up about half of our revenue, while the rest comes from individual donors, corporate and church partners, foundational grants, as well as champion and ambassador initiatives. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our supporters!



Overhead Expenses

Just like for-profit businesses, charities must cover expenses like salaries, rent, insurance, and promotion. These costs are necessary to keep our projects and programs running smoothly, but we're committed to keeping them as low as possible. Thankfully, in 2023, we had generous donors cover all our overhead expenses, meaning that every gift we received went directly to supporting the projects and programs.

Thank You!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."
Psalm 118:29

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International Needs Canada
230-1119 Fennell Ave East
Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1S2

Tel: 905.389.1118
Toll free: 1.888.702.9805
www.internationalneeds.ca