

S.O.U.L. foundation

Supporting opportunities for ugandans to learn

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2017 - 2018



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"OUR MANTRA HAS ALWAYS BEEN: ALL DEVELOPMENT IS LOCAL AND WOMEN ARE THE KEY TO LONG TERM SUCCESS AS THE HEALTH OF A NATION IS DETERMINED BY THE HEALTH AND PARITY OF ITS WOMEN AND GIRLS."

- DIANE STERN
S.O.U.L. BOARD CHAIR

OUR MISSION

S.O.U.L. Foundation fosters sustainable and vibrant Ugandan communities through unique partnerships focused on **education, women's empowerment, food security, and maternal health.**



COMMUNITIES ON THE RISE

Brooke Stern Okoth - S.O.U.L. CEO and Co-Founder

DEAR FRIENDS,

I would like to first express my deep appreciation for your continued and faithful support. We couldn't do this without you! Thank you for standing with us and beside us.

As a new mom, I sometimes find myself imagining that I am a Ugandan woman, a new mother living in poverty with less than little to hope for. In that scenario I feel happy to have my new baby, but desperately afraid of what life will look like for her. I imagine what it feels like to be that mother, who lives without running water, electricity, or access to skilled reproductive health care. There's no money, no safety nets, no voice, and no self-determination.

With that in mind, I go back to the birth of S.O.U.L. and how my core philosophy was conceived from a simple revelation: **If we can't really imagine or truly experience what it feels like to live in gripping poverty, why would we think we have all the answers?** How can we impose solutions on something we haven't lived, that we can't imagine, and we don't truly understand? No matter how hard I try to put myself in their shoes, I can't fathom that stark reality for women in Uganda.

So, I started S.O.U.L. simply by listening to what the people in the village told me – and I kept listening for thirteen months. Little did I know at the time that we were a pioneer of the community led development model that is highly recognized today by the international development field. And with that revelation back in 2009, three core beliefs emerged: **1)** People living in poverty possess the largest capacity to improve it. They are partners in development rather than passive recipients of aid. **2)** Empowered individuals are emboldened to continue to find solutions that work. **3)** As individuals become empowered, so do communities, capable of tackling systemic obstacles to progress in the long fight against poverty.

These core beliefs are our anchor to real transformative change and the tenets that guide our work every single day. And because of this, our **communities are on the rise**. They are collectively taking hold of their destiny and developing the systems necessary that promote life, health, and well-being. Now, they are able to stand alone and design their own future and livelihoods. Including our mothers, who are accessing the maternal health services and educational classes they need to have a safe and healthy pregnancy, childbirth, and beyond.

Nine years later, I stand in awe of how this model is transforming our community. Our early days were filled with excitement and joy, but more often it was hard, slow, and even painful at times. S.O.U.L. was truly built **brick by brick**. There were no quick fixes and it often seemed like we were moving through mud. Based on my current circumstance, I can't help but make the comparison to childbirth, a joyful but painful and arduous experience, however one that yields an extraordinary outcome!



In the following pages, I know you will feel as proud as we do to see the progress that our community has made this past year. It's a beautiful presentation that we are excited to share with you. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Brooke Stern Okoth

OUR MODEL

The greatest needs for women and youth in our Ugandan communities are opportunities to learn new skills, participate in the local economy, to access quality healthcare, and to receive a strong education. Through equitable partnerships with our community members, we design community-specific interventions and programs that build micro-economic models which are fully sustainable.

PROGRAM AREAS

EDUCATION



**WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT**



**FOOD
SECURITY**



**MATERNAL
HEALTH**



WE BELIEVE...

Community transformation occurs when individuals are empowered to become agents of change in their own lives.

EDUCATION

Providing Ugandan youth with opportunities to learn and thrive inside and out of the classroom

1,420 students directly served by our education programs

430
students enrolled
in our
sponsorship
program

90%
of mentorship participants
reported an increase in their
confidence, leadership skills, and
academic achievement

90
sponsored students graduated from
primary, secondary, university, and
vocational school

75%
yearly increase in the number of
students attending computer courses

464
reusable
sanitary pads
distributed to
female students



"I am currently studying for my Bachelor's of Medicine and Surgery. When I graduate, I will continue school to become a doctor with a focus on obstetrics and pediatrics. S.O.U.L.'s sponsorship program has offered me a gateway to becoming a doctor. Had it not been for S.O.U.L., I would not have had the opportunity to complete my secondary education and my current studies...My goal is to return to my village to practice what I have learned so that I can be a living example for the other youth in my community."

- Juma Odwori, S.O.U.L. Sponsored Student (pictured left, next to former sponsored student and medical doctor, Dan Muwanguzi)

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."

- NELSON MANDELA



MATERNAL HEALTH



Empowering rural women with the education and tools necessary to have a safe and dignified childbirth

S.O.U.L.'s Maternal Health Network is disrupting maternal and infant mortality in our rural communities by targeting the three delays in maternal health:

1. Education
2. Access
3. Services



"As a first time mother, everything was so new to me. Through the AEC classes, I was informed to start saving money and the importance of antenatal care for me and my baby. I am now confident and have a healthy baby."

- Birungi Mwasiti
AEC graduate

945

women and men graduated from the Antenatal Education Center (AEC)

2,283

women directly served by our antenatal classes and services

614

ultrasound scans

91,800

doses of prenatal vitamins

214

birthing kits provided to expecting mothers

of females surveyed from one AEC class

100% reported a significant increase in their ability to care for their newborns after birth because of the classes

MATERNAL HEALTH

Using community-led interventions to save the lives of mothers with obstetric emergencies and to help them deliver safely in a qualified birthing facility

Each year in Uganda, 4,700 women die in childbirth, often from preventable causes.

Since 2015, S.O.U.L. has targeted the first delay in maternal health by providing outstanding antenatal education and health services to mothers and their families in our rural communities.

S.O.U.L. has recently launched the **Village Emergency Transport Systems (VETS)** program to disrupt the second delay in maternal health, access to reaching care. Run by a network of community volunteers, VETS is providing expecting mothers with emergency transport to local referral hospitals.

Serving over 8,500 women from 40 rural villages, S.O.U.L.'s ambulance service is truly a lifeline for mothers and their babies.

Looking ahead to third stage of the Maternal Health Network, disrupting the delay in receiving proper care, S.O.U.L. is planning to construct a state-of-the-art community birthing center. Construction will begin in late 2019.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Equipping subsistence women farmers to participate in the local economy through small enterprises

25

women's business cooperatives

- Agriculture
- Livestock
- Tailoring
- Aquaculture (fish cages, fish ponds)

43

women graduated from our six-month tailoring program

4

new women's cooperatives established

800+
women actively participating in a group cooperative

95%

of agriculture cooperative members reported learning key skills in sustainable agriculture, financial literacy, and animal husbandry

"To date, I have raised seven goats in total. I sold off four to pay for my child's school fees and I currently have three. Because of this program, I can manage to take my child to one of the most prestigious schools in Eastern Uganda. Had it not been for S.O.U.L I would not be able to support my child's education, which I know will help my child to have a better future."



- Babirye Mwiduma,
Goat Cooperative Member



"WHEN WOMEN THRIVE, ALL OF SOCIETY BENEFITS"
- KOFI ANNAN

FOOD SECURITY



Transforming our communities through agriculture training, agribusiness, and increasing access to locally produced food

Skills we empower farmers with...

1. Climate-smart agriculture
2. Animal husbandry
3. Financial literacy
4. Entrepreneurship
5. Leadership



79

goats distributed and "passed on" through our goat cooperatives

242

farmers trained at our Agriculture & Livestock Learning Center

20,000

tilapia harvested per growing cycle through our four fish cages

75%

of our farmers reported being better able to buy and produce more food for their household because of their training

15

local communities served by the maize mill and fish cage cooperatives

With 83% of Ugandans relying on subsistence agriculture, S.O.U.L. is equipping rural women farmers with the tools and resources to fight food insecurity, earn a stable income, and produce more food sustainably.

LOOKING AHEAD - 2018/19

Celebrating a decade of S.O.U.L.
and our community-led impact in Uganda

DESIGNING SYSTEMS THAT BUILD RESILIENT AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

EDUCATION

Reaching over 3,000 students yearly with our holistic educational programs, equipping them for academic, career, and personal success.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Increasing annual income for our women entrepreneurs by 150% while doubling the number of women participating in a group cooperative.

MATERNAL HEALTH

Reducing preventable maternal and neonatal mortality by 10% in our rural communities and serving over 5,000 women yearly.

FOOD SECURITY

Serving over 50,000 people through access to local foods provided by our women's cooperatives and training over 500 farmers each year.

"AS OUR WOMEN AND YOUTH RISE,
SO DO OUR COMMUNITIES,
EMPOWERED TO DESIGN
THEIR OWN FUTURE."

- BROOKE STERN OKOTH



IMPACT PARTNERS

Organizational Partners

Adobe
Affiliated Adjustment Group
April Fund
Birthing Kit Foundation of Australia
Bujagali Energy Limited
Chaus Realty
Company Twenty-Two, LLC
CRC Insurance Services
ELMA Foundation
Environmental Consulting and Management Services
GLN Worldwide Ltd
Gould Family Foundation
International Foundation
Issroff Family Foundation
J&D Ultracare Corp
Jewish Women's Foundation of New York
Kathryn B. McQuade Foundation
Linger Restaurant
Omstead Enterprises
Posner Center for International Development
Risk Placement Services
Rockflower Fund
RSA, Inc
Segal Family Foundation
Stern Agency
Vitamin Angels

Individual Partners

Andrew and Laurel Epstein
Angella Kellepourey
Barron S. Wall
Bob and Ericka Greenfield
Brittney and Charles Griffin
Charles Peterson
Damian McClure
Daniel Colten
Eleanor Reiter
Elisabetta Fustella
Emily Forhman
Emily Leibenguth
Fred Stern
Jason Stern and Sarah McCarthy Stern
Jonathan Kutzner
Joyce Mobley and Gordon Young
Karen and Stan Zborovski
Kelly Glynn
Ken and Diane Stern
Krishnamurthy Viswanathan
Levi Davis
Mario and Jenn Gasbarro
Mary and Ted Wendell
Mary O'Keefe
Nathanya Ahamed
Omari Jinaki
Raena and Adam Stern
Richard Bader
Stephanie Newell
Stephanie Randall
Susan Eidelheit



MEET OUR TEAM

83%
**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS**

100%
**UGANDAN STAFF
IN COUNTRY**

83%
**STAFF HIRED FROM
OUR COMMUNITIES**

Leadership

Brooke Stern Okoth - CEO/Co-Founder

Okoth Grace - Managing Director

Kathryn Kutzner - Director of Development

Hope Acheing Otiti - Programs Manager

Isaac Muhofa - Uganda Director of
Operations



**Many thanks to our
dedicated staff....**

Ali Muyombi, Asiah Nakintu, Atepo Solomon, Auma Ruth Otiti, Awori Hellen, Bagonza Bashir, Basalirwa Twaha, Basti Ibanda, Bayo Jinnous, Emmanuel Malinzi, Florence Adeti, George Bamwise, Harriet Zakia Namukose, Hassan Alwaana, Hawa Nantege, Isiko Nassan Joan Kasiti, Joanita Byobona, Kalaja Charles, Katoto Peter, Kigenyi Jaliru, Kirunda Isa, Lydia Mubezi, Mayanja Zubairi, Mbule Hassan, Mildred Aketch, Muganda Hassan, Nabirye Jane, Nakagolo Hadija, Namukasa Mary, Naomi Awello, Nekesa Racheal, Patrick Kayima, Sophie Mutesi, Sylvia Tikakobayo, Wanyaka Yusuf, Were Joseph Hiwala, Zahara Mutesi

BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Stern, Chair

Ken Stern, Vice Chair/Co-Founder

Bob Greenfield, Treasurer

Nathanya Ahamed, Secretary

Emily Forhman

Omari Jinaki

Ellie Reiter

Brooke Stern Okoth, CEO/Co-
Founder

FINANCIALS



2017-2018 Statement of Financials

Revenue and Support	\$530,306
Expenditures	\$452,932
Change in Net Assets	\$77,716
Total Assets	\$290,782
Liabilities	\$65,972
Equity	\$224,810
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$290,782

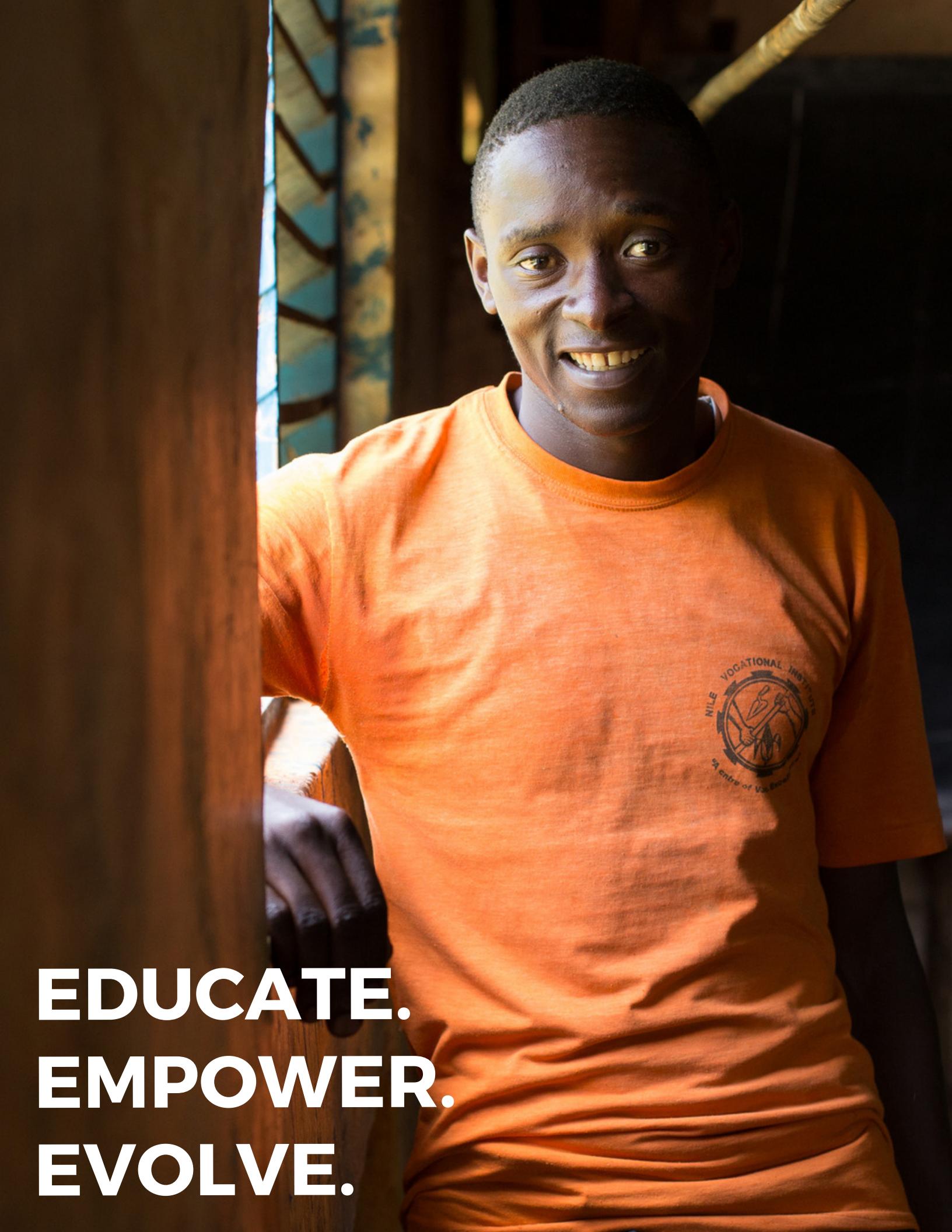


31%
**INCREASE IN
OVERALL INCOME
FROM LAST
FISCAL YEAR**

Foundations (33%)
Uganda income (2%)
Corporate (13%)
Individual (43%)
Events/sales (8%)
Fees, volunteer program, other (1%)



31%
**INCREASE IN
FOUNDATION
SUPPORT**

A medium shot of a young man with short dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a bright orange t-shirt. On the right side of his chest, there is a circular logo. The text "NILE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE" is curved along the top edge of the circle. Inside the circle, there is a stylized illustration of a person's head and shoulders, possibly a craftsman or laborer, holding a tool. Below the illustration, the words "A CHURCH OF VIENNA" are written in a smaller font.

EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.
EVOLVE.



Supporting opportunities for ugandans to learn



CONTACT US

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S.O.U.L. Foundation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the United States and non-governmental organization in Uganda.

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