



15

Brick by Brick
15 Years of Building
Healthy Communities

2018 Annual Report



Letters from the Executive Directors:

Brick by Brick Uganda

At Brick by Brick, we've had a very exciting and fulfilling journey of growth from a small civil society organization to a fully-fledged non-governmental organization. We have grown and increased our capacity to manage complex programs in partnership with the districts of Rakai and Kyotera. These strong and progressive partnerships enable us to achieve more with less. We are proud to note the community's ownership and leadership of our innovative programs.

In 2018, our work made significant improvements in the lives of women, mothers, adolescents, and young children in Rakai and Kyotera. Maternal deaths in health facilities decreased by 79% compared to 2015, with an increase in improved outcomes among women suffering from obstetric complications. In partnership with DREAMS-Innovative Challenge, more than 2,400 adolescent girls and young women were provided with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health educational support to help them manage their menstruation while in school. This retained 95% of these young women in school who might have otherwise missed classes or even dropped out due to menstruation, unwanted pregnancies or early marriage.

Next year, Brick by Brick Uganda's will expand its programs to better serve Rakai and Kyotera. The My Pads Program will expand to include comprehensive adolescent health programming for in and out of school youth. The Babies and Mothers Alive Program will launch the Mama Rescue Project, a motorized transport referral system to give emergency transport assistance to women going to health facilities for delivery. The School Program will refocus its efforts on water, sanitation, and hygiene improvements in local schools as well as improving school libraries.

On behalf of the Brick by Brick Uganda board of directors, senior management, and our staff, I thank our beneficiaries for the opportunity to serve them. I thank the field staff and district health workers who voluntarily work beyond the normal call of duty to generate the good results you will read about in this report. We also thank Brick by Brick Partners and all our friends in the US who so consistently raise funds for our work!



Daniel Murokora, MD
Executive Director
Brick by Brick Uganda

Brick by Brick Partners

At Brick by Brick, we are often asked why we work in just two rural districts in Uganda?

When we began our work 15 years ago, Dr. Daniel Murokora and I were obstetrician-gynaecologists wanting to bring our knowledge and skills to where we could do the most good: supporting often marginalized communities. We shared a vision for approaching development that rejected the typical 'charity' model. We knew that the ultimate experts on how to lift the world's poor out of poverty were the world's poor themselves, who are rich in ideas and experience. What they lack is the catalytic power of seed capital and resources. That vision became the foundation for Brick by Brick Partners: putting power and resources in the hands of beneficiaries so they can create their own opportunities; partners and beneficiaries engaged in the mission of change.

Since its founding, Brick by Brick Partners and Brick by Brick Uganda has grown from a founder-driven project to a bi-national partnership, with an annual budget approaching \$1,000,000. While we are grateful to the thousands of donors for our expanded revenue, we are much prouder of how we have leveraged our modest resources to have a disproportionately large impact in improving health, education and economic opportunity. We have seen teenage girls once afraid of going to school during their period, thriving and leading student clubs that champion gender equity and reproductive health. We partnered with health centers and hospitals and reduced maternal mortality by 79% so that mothers and babies are given a second chance at life. We have also seen thousands of students who once learned in classrooms so run-down they posed a safety hazard, attend schools that give them access to clean water, beautiful classrooms and engaged teachers. With each passing year, the baton has been passed to a growing corps of health and development professionals who lead our three core programs and social enterprise in Uganda. But the staff of Brick by Brick Uganda do not work alone. Rather they are joined by our local partners in government, rural health centers, hospitals and schools we serve. So why the Rakai and Kyotera Districts of Uganda? Because it is there that we have fostered a community of trusted partners on which all of our success is built.

All of our work is only made possible with your support. Thank you!



Marc Sklar, MD, MPH
Executive Director
Brick by Brick Partners



Our Mission:

Create partnerships to improve health, education and economic opportunity in Uganda.

Who We Are:

Brick by Brick is an innovative bi-national partnership between Brick by Brick Partners, a US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, and Brick by Brick Uganda, a community-based NGO registered with the Government of Uganda.

We were founded by Drs. Daniel Murokora and Marc Sklar in 2004 with the mission to improve health, education, and economic opportunity in the Rakai and Kyotera Districts of Uganda.

Our staff of 21 committed development professionals empower women and their families to build healthy communities by supporting maternal, newborn, and child health care (MNCH), sexual and reproductive health education, and quality primary education.



Dr. Eleanor Nakintu, Babies and Mothers Alive Program Director

Babies and Mothers Alive

Improving Maternal & Child Health

The Babies and Mothers Alive Program (BAMA) is a partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to dramatically improve the quality of maternal and newborn healthcare in the districts of Rakai and Kyotera.

Babies and Mothers Alive partners with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to 1) increase demand for maternal-newborn health services, 2) increase access to maternal health services, 3) increase utilization of maternal health services, 4) improve quality of maternal newborn health services and 5) strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of maternal and new born health services. This year, we doubled the number of health facilities we work in from 24 to 48.

In 2018, the BAMA Program was awarded a \$250,000 grant for the Mama Ambassadors Project from the government of Canada.

The Mama Ambassadors Project will train healthcare workers on adolescent friendly obstetric services and development curriculum to improve the cognitive development of infants born to adolescent mothers in the Rakai and Kyotera Districts.

My Pads Program

Empowering Young Women to Stay Healthy and in School

Young women in Uganda often miss or drop out of school due to early marriage, adolescent pregnancies or simply the lack of access to affordable menstrual hygiene products. My Pads empowers these young women with its comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education program.

This year, we concluded our two year DREAMS Innovation partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which focused on reducing the risk of HIV infection for young women by keeping them in school.

Since 2016, 3,459 secondary students across 20 schools participated in this innovative program. Over the course of a nine sessions they were armed with knowledge on HIV, healthy life choices, and gender dynamics and learned how to fabricate their own set of reusable menstrual pads.

To ensure improved menstrual health, 16 schools received newly constructed changing rooms for female students, as well as rainwater harvesting tanks to capture clean water for use by all students.

This rainwater harvesting tank was made possible with support from:



Did you know?

1 in 3 girls in rural Uganda miss school due to a lack of affordable menstrual hygiene products

School Program

Improving the quality of primary education

The School Program partners with the Ugandan Ministry of Education and local rural communities to improve physical infrastructure in universal primary schools through the construct of new classrooms, quality teacher housing, libraries, rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems.

In 2018, the School Program completed the construction of administrative offices, staff housing and rainwater harvesting systems at the Byerima, Nsambya and Lumbugu Primary Schools.

Brick by Brick partnered with two US based non-profit organisations. With World Possible, we introduced the RACHEL system, a portable plug-and-play server which stores educational websites, making this content available offline. Working with We Share Solar, we installed solar powered lighting systems in 10 primary schools.

We are also collaborating with two Dutch non-profits: The EXPERI-BOX Project and Knowledge for Children.

EXEPRI-BOX project provides students with over 100 science experiments in a shoebox sized container while Knowledge for Children partners with schools to improve the quality of school libraries.

Partner Spotlight:

Above, students use World Possible's RACHEL learning system to access educational materials offline

Brick by Brick

Construction Company

Building a better Uganda through social enterprise

Brick by Brick Construction, founded in 2011, is a social enterprise that uses environmentally sustainable technology to build schools, rainwater harvesting tanks, health facilities, and sanitation systems.

In 2018, Brick by Brick Construction completed its largest number of projects to date. 41 projects were executed in 18 districts across Uganda.

We also created new partnerships British NGO Faith in Water and the Australian NGO Followings Foundation.

Brick by Brick construction shares 20% of its profits amongst its 35 employees, fulfilling its promise to improve economic opportunity in the districts of Rakai and Kyotera.




Our Stories:

“When my contractions started, I was rushed to the health center in Kyalulangira. The midwife did all she could and sent an ambulance from Rakai Hospital quickly... I am so happy because if it wasn’t for the speed with which I was referred, my baby and I probably would have died.”


**-Betty Nassanga, 19-year-old mother
Babies and Mothers Alive Program Beneficiary
*Pictured third from left***





“Before joining Brick by Brick Construction, I used to struggle to find work and hardly got paid. I am now paid well and on time. I have also been able to train youths around the country in construction. And most importantly, I have been able to build my own residential house in addition to paying school fees for my kids.”

**-John Ssebyoto
Brick by Brick Construction General Foreman
*Pictured right***



“When I joined the My Pads Program, we were taught the way HIV/AIDS is spread and how we as young people can stay safe from the different risks of getting it. We were taught that we could get it from unprotected sex, at birth, and blood transfusions.”

**-Hasfa Nalubega
My Pads Program beneficiary
*Pictured center***

Our Impact:

Babies and Mothers Alive



55,556

Clients provided public health services



23%

Increase in vaccine coverage for cervical cancer



24%

Reduction in maternal deaths at 48 partnering health facilities



236

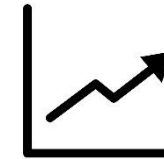
Midwives trained in emergency obstetric care



33

Community outreaches

School Program



34%

Increase in enrolment



4

New NGO partnerships



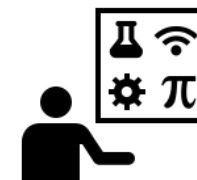
1,030

Students impacted



3

Infrastructure projects completed



11

Schools improved STEM education

My Pads Program



3,178

Adolescent girls reached



342

Adolescent boys reached



16

Rainwater harvesting systems
and changing rooms constructed



1,926

Girls received HIV testing services



20

Student led health clubs
created and strengthened

Construction



35

Total employees



2

New NGO partnerships



41

Projects completed



10

Staff promotions



20%

Of profits shared amongst staff

Looking Forward:

Thanks to the support of the Grand Challenges Canada Saving Brains Program, we will establish adolescent-friendly clinics in Rakai and Kalisizo Hospital. We will open Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) at our two district hospitals, saving the lives of hundreds of babies per year.

With the support of the Dining for Women Foundation, we will launch the Mama Rescue Project, an initiative to link local taxi drivers

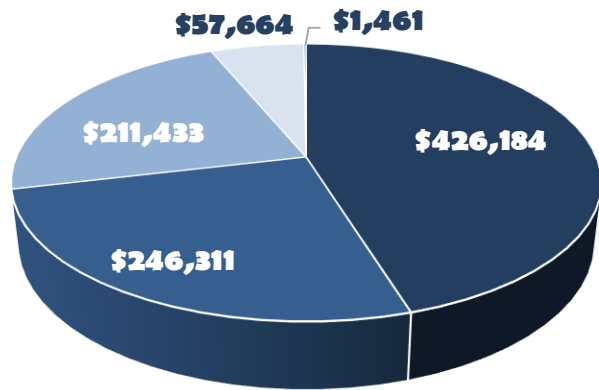
to labouring women in need of life saving transport. In 2019, we will expand our My Pads Program to Universal Primary Education Schools and link girls and young women to adolescent-friendly reproductive health services.

We are also excited to partner with the FreO2 Foundation, who will provide a sustainable source of oxygen therapy for babies and children at two hospitals.






Our Finances

Combined finances for Brick by Brick Uganda and Brick by Brick Partners

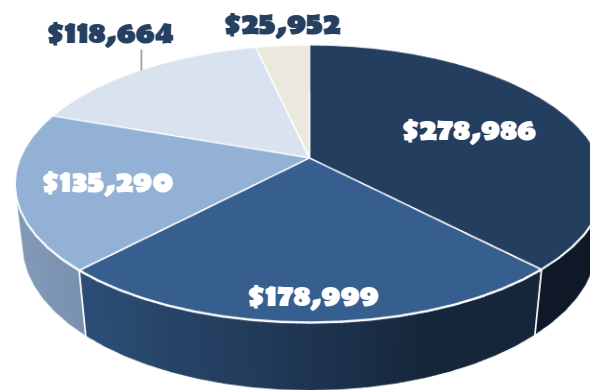
2018 Income








Total Income: \$943,053

	FOUNDATIONS	\$426,184 (45.2%)
	GOVERNMENT	\$246,311 (26.1%)
	INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$211,433 (22.4%)
	EVENTS	\$57,664 (6.1%)
	OTHER	\$1,461 (0.2%)

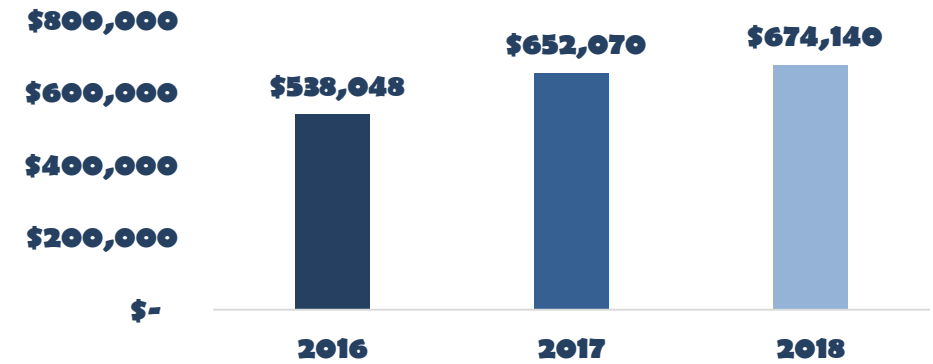
2018 Expenses






Total Expenses: \$737,891

	BAMA	\$278,986 (37.8%)
	MY PADS	\$178,999 (24.3%)
	SCHOOL'S PROGRAM	\$135,290 (18.3%)
	ADMINISTRATION	\$118,664 (16.1%)
	FUNDRAISING	\$25,952 (9.3%)

Program Spending 2016-2018



Program Spending: 2016- 2018

	2016	\$538,048
	2017	\$652,070
	2018	\$674,140

Our 2018 Annual Appeal raised \$83,000, our most ever

Over \$245,000 received from US, Ugandan and Canadian governments

6 out of 22 total grant applications submitted (27%) were successful

Thanks to our partners:



A partnership of:



UBS Optimus Foundation

