



2019 ANNUAL REPORT
BRICK BY BRICK





FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

At Brick by Brick Uganda, we have had an interesting journey of consistent growth in size and scope of programs over the past sixteen years. We have evolved from implementing pioneering educational programs to those focusing on maternal, newborn and adolescent health. We have grown from having one full time staff to twenty-four, and from no office to a large suite of offices and training facilities.

This growth and expansion have enabled us to reach at least 30,000 pregnant women annually, resulting in significant improvements in the quality of health care and dramatic reductions in maternal and newborn deaths in health facilities.

Our programming has evolved based on local needs, which is one sure way to ensure sustainable development. As such, our strong and progressive partnership with the local district governments has been a major pillar in our sustained growth.

In this message I take the opportunity to appreciate and thank our professional staff who work with dedication to deliver our programs. We thank you very much for choosing to deliver these lifesaving initiatives with us.

I thank our district partners led by the able leadership in both districts of Rakai and Kyotera for the progressive and productive partnership as well as all your guidance and support. We appreciate your enabling environment, the district staff in both health and education, as well as the district establishments through which we deliver our programs. Without the generous financial support of our various donors around the world, we would not be able to deliver these programs. We thank you for your generosity and commit to putting all the funds to the intended use as we always do. We are looking forward to an interesting and productive year with new programming in emergency transport and the expansion of our Mama Ambassador Program. Integrated into our BAMA Program, Mama Rescue will increase our scope to address the three delays of access to quality maternity care. We will also increase our outreach to adolescents through the expanded My Pads Program as well as the Mama Ambassador Program which supports both adolescent mothers and their infants.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Murokora'.

Dr. Daniel Murokora, MD
Executive Director, Co-founder
Brick by Brick Uganda

For the past sixteen years, Brick by Brick has been working in the Rakai and Kyotera Districts of Uganda to improve the health of our partnering communities. We have grown from a founder-driven project to a bi-national partnership, with an annual budget approaching \$1,000,000.

In 2019, thanks to the support of Grand Challenges Canada, we expanded our successful Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) Program to serve over 400 adolescent mothers and babies through the year-long Mama Ambassadors Program, creating peer support parenting groups that have improved child health and development, as well as maternal mental health and well-being.

Our My Pads Program has grown beyond its focus on in-school adolescent girls and young women to include out of school girls and boys, linking all of these young people to adolescent-friendly reproductive health services provided by BAMA-trained nurses.

Thanks to major grants from Enabel-Wehubit, a part of the Belgian Development Agency, and Dining for Women, we have begun the launch of the Mama Rescue Project, which once implemented in 2020 will link over 10,000 women in labor to lifesaving transport from village to health center and health center to hospital utilizing our mobile phone app which connects women in need to local taxi drivers.

We continue to partner with the Ministry of Health, district government and 48 free public health facilities and have dramatically improved the quality of maternal and newborn health care. In 2019, we have opened neonatal care intensive units at our two district hospitals, the first such units in Rakai and Kyotera. While our work increasingly focuses on maternal and reproductive health, we continue to partner with nine rural communities to improve the quality of primary education. Through our Library Project and our partnerships with Knowledge for Children, We Share Solar and Experi-box, we are building the capacity of local teachers to provide a supportive learning environment for close to 5,000 students. Our social enterprise Brick by Brick Construction Company, has completed 300 projects throughout Uganda, providing fair wage jobs to 30 skilled masons and safe, clean water for over 200,000 people.

Brick by Brick is building a new model to improve the health of communities that are too often forgotten. Building strong partnerships with local government and our beneficiaries has allowed us to realize dramatic impact with limited resources. Your partnership is a vital part of our success and we thank you for your support.



Dr. Marc Sklar, MD, MPH
Executive Director, Co-founder
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.

About Us

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



Babies and Mother Alive

Improving Maternal & Child Health

The Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) Program is a partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to reduce maternal and newborn mortality in the Rakai and Kyotera Districts.

Since 2015, the BAMA Program has led to a 65% reduction in maternal mortality across 48 partner health facilities.

The BAMA Program mobilizes 120 Community Health Workers, known as *Mama Ambassadors*, to help increase demand for institutional obstetric services among hard-to-reach populations. Mama Ambassadors assist pregnant women in rural areas to develop a birth preparedness plans — stressing the importance of delivering at a health facility under the supervision of a skilled birth attendant.

Our 30 peer-to-peer educators, known as Mentor Midwives, have trained 265 healthcare providers in emergency obstetric and newborn care — preventing the vast majority of deaths that are due to treatable complications from childbirth or pregnancy.

Our team of three Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialists work with healthcare administrators to improve the quality of data collection and analysis and help doctors make data driven decisions.

Mama Rescue Project

Improving Access to Maternal & Child Health

In 2019, Brick by Brick partnered with the Belgian Government's Development Agency (Enabel Wehubit), Dining for Women Foundation, and the Spring Together Foundation, to launch the Mama Rescue Project — a mobile phone application to provide women from remote areas with free transport to health facilities via motorcycle or automobile taxi.

Mama Rescue will provide more than 10,000 women in labor with transport from village to health center annually, as well as emergency transport for women in need of referral from health center to the hospital.

By addressing the delay in accessing skilled maternity and newborn care once the decision to deliver at a health center has been made, we expect to dramatically reduce the time it will take women to move from their communities to health facilities and to refer them from lower level to higher level health units, ultimately leading to a reduction in maternal and newborn complications and deaths.

Our solution has been developed locally by Yo! Uganda, and is strengthened by strong support from MTN, the largest mobile phone network carrier in sub-Saharan Africa.

Upon demonstrating the successful implementation of Mama Rescue in Rakai and Kyotera, we will seek funding to scale the project across the Greater Masaka Region.





Mama Ambassador Program (MAP) Improving Adolescent Maternal & Child Health

In Uganda, 24% of women become pregnant before the age of 19. With the support of the Canadian Government's Grand Challenges Canada Saving Brains Program, Brick by Brick Uganda launched the Mama Ambassador Program, establishing over 30 peer support care groups for 430 adolescent mothers at Rakai Hospital.

These monthly sessions, which start in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy and last for the first year of the baby's life, focus on parenting skills, infant bonding and psycho-social support for young mothers. The program has demonstrated significant improvements in infant development, improved mental health for mothers, and a greater than two-fold increase in uptake of postpartum family planning.

As part of the Mama Ambassador Program, Brick by Brick has also built neonatal intensive care units and adolescent-friendly antenatal and postnatal care services at the two district hospitals.

In 2020, with the support of the United States Development Agency (USAID), we plan to scale-up this successful program to reach 1,000 adolescent mothers, fathers and their extended families. The intervention will be expanded from one to two years, ensuring comprehensive support for young mothers and their children. We will also expand our community outreach to improve the support systems for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

My Pads Program

Empowering Young Women to Stay Healthy and in School

Since 2012, the My Pads Program has impacted the lives of over 5,000 adolescent girls and young women by delivering comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education. Our nine-session after school program provides students with the knowledge they need to make informed and healthy life choices and culminates in teaching young people to make their own set of reusable menstrual pads, addressing a significant barrier to regular school attendance.

In 2019, we recognized to need to expand the My Pads Program into a more comprehensive and integrated adolescent health initiative. Beginning in March, we began an extensive process of engagement with district level and local community stakeholders to inform the design of our new program. We met with and interviewed government and civil society leaders as well as members of our beneficiary community. After performing a comprehensive need assessment, we have designed a three-tiered program:

In school: we will engage 600 adolescent girls and boys in eight Universal Primary Schools in the Rakai District in the My Pads comprehensive SRH program in 2020.

Out-of school: we will engage 480 adolescent girls and boys in rural communities in Kyalulungira sub-county in Rakai in the My Pads comprehensive SRH program in 2020.

Adolescent-friendly reproductive health care: all 1080 adolescent will be linked to health facilities where adolescent-friendly health services have been established with BAMA-trained nurses staffing these centers.





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 construction of new classrooms, quality teacher housing, libraries, rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems.

This year, the School Program focused on improving the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure at the Byerima, Lumbugu and Nsambya Primary Schools. By building new rainwater collection tanks, hand washing stations, and bathroom facilities, we hope to improve the health and educational achievement of students by reducing the incidence of water and sanitation related diseases.

We also continued to develop our strong partnerships with NGO's Knowledge for Children (K4C), the EXPERI-BOX Project, World Possible, and We Share Solar to improve the quality of primary education.

World Possible's portable server, the RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education & Learning) system, makes content from educational websites available offline, while the EXPERI-BOX project promotes STEM by providing students with over 100 science experiments in a shoebox sized container.

We Share Solar installed solar suitcases in four primary schools to provide lighting for learners at night and improve school security, while Knowledge for Children helped improve the quality of libraries at partnering primary schools through training teachers on library management.

Brick by Brick Construction Company

Building a Better Uganda Through Social Enterprise

Established in 2011, this innovative social enterprise is proving that a commitment to the Triple Bottom Line — People, Planet and Profit— can work.

With expertise in the design and construction of water and sanitation systems, Brick by Brick Construction has completed over 300 projects throughout Uganda, providing safe, clean water for over 200,000 people. We utilize an environmentally sustainable technology, Interlocking Stabilized Soil Bricks, preserving and estimated 22 acres of forest and wetlands.

In 2019, Brick by Brick Construction company employed 40 skilled masons with fair wage jobs. Our employees are integrally involved in our company's growth and development as a national leader in environmentally sustainable construction.

This year, we held our first staff retreat to fully engage all employees and to help guide our future as a social enterprise. Early in the year we hired Dorothy Talemwa, our first architect, as a member of our staff. For the first time, we will provide architectural services for our clients. After developing a comprehensive business plan, we will launch a new construction supply store to expand our revenue streams and make us less reliant on the delivery of construction services. After three years of full-time study, our Company Manager, David Mutesaasira, completed his Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering at Ndejje University.



Our Stories

“Contractions started Friday morning. I walked to church, and the pastor told me to go to the health facility. When I checked in, they referred me to Kakuuto Health Center for management. After a long walk, I reached Kakuuto Health Center at about 8 pm, and they referred me again to Kalisizo Hospital. They then immediately called the Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) Program and an ambulance was sent. I am so thankful for Brick by Brick Uganda because if it wasn't for them my baby and I probably would have died. I had no money for transport and I wouldn't have been able to walk the entire journey.”

Edisa Kyomukama
Mother from Mutukula
BAMA Program beneficiary





“We are so grateful we got support from the BAMA Program to set up a fully equipped Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Kalisizo Hospital. We have an incubator, oxygen concentrator, an infant warmer, a phototherapy machine, as well as a suction machine. We were trained by BAMA on how to manage and monitor sick newborns born premature, or those born with complications such as asphyxia or neonatal jaundice.”

Dr. Emmanuel Ssekyeru
Doctor at Kalisizo Hospital
BAMA Program implementing partner

“Many of us got pregnant when we weren’t ready. But when BAMA came, we joined groups and learned together. I became strong and was able to have my baby who I named Esther, after a friend I met in my group.”

Claire Birungi

Adolescent mother from Rakai District
Saving Brains Program beneficiary





“I am so excited to have been trained by the My Pads Program about the myths around Sexual and Reproductive Health in the community. Health workers shared their knowledge with us so we can give the right information to young people. I will be a champion in my community to ensure that young people get useful information on their sexual and reproductive health... I will work in Rakai to support young people to make healthy choices.”

Brenda Atuhire

Seventeen-year-old peer educator

My Pads Program beneficiary

“We used to suffer a lot during night preps because we used to use candles and torches that would emit dim light. Now we are able to carry out late evening classes as We Share Solar suitcases emit a bright light.”

Hudson Mpungu
Director, Byerima Primary School
School Program beneficiary





“Before Brick by Brick joined us enrollement was really low. It has since improved because the community is excited about the structures of the school that Brick by Brick refurbished. The staff quarters accommodating 7 teachers reduced the distances the teachers used to travel to school, since now they are within the school premises which has improved academic performance. They constructed for us a library, including the furniture in the library, that allows pupils to go and read from there. They have also renovated the old buildings. In addition, learners used to travel long distances to collect water but they no longer have to because there are two water tanks constructed at the school. We appreciate the work.”

Thadeus Birimuye

Head Teacher at Byerima Primary School

School Program beneficiary

Our Impact: BAMA Program



282

Midwives trained in emergency obstetric care in 2019



65.2%

Reduction in maternal deaths since 2016



153

Community outreaches conducted in 2019



96%

Accuracy of data at partnering health facilities



62,642

Women served in 2019

Our Impact: My Pads Program

16

Rainwater harvesting systems constructed since 2016



20

Student led health clubs created and strengthened since 2016



3,178

Adolescent girls reached since 2016



342

Adolescent boys reached since 2016



1,926

Girls have receiving HIV testing services since 2016

Our Impact: School Program



4
Schools
outfitted with
solar energy in
2019



5,044
Students
Impacted in
2019



9
Schools
providing
STEM education
in 2019



11
Infrastructure
projects
completed in
2019



4
NGO partners

Our Impact: Brick by Brick Construction



22
Acres of forest
preserved since
2011



40
Total
employees



200,000
People served
since 2011



300
Projects
completed to
date

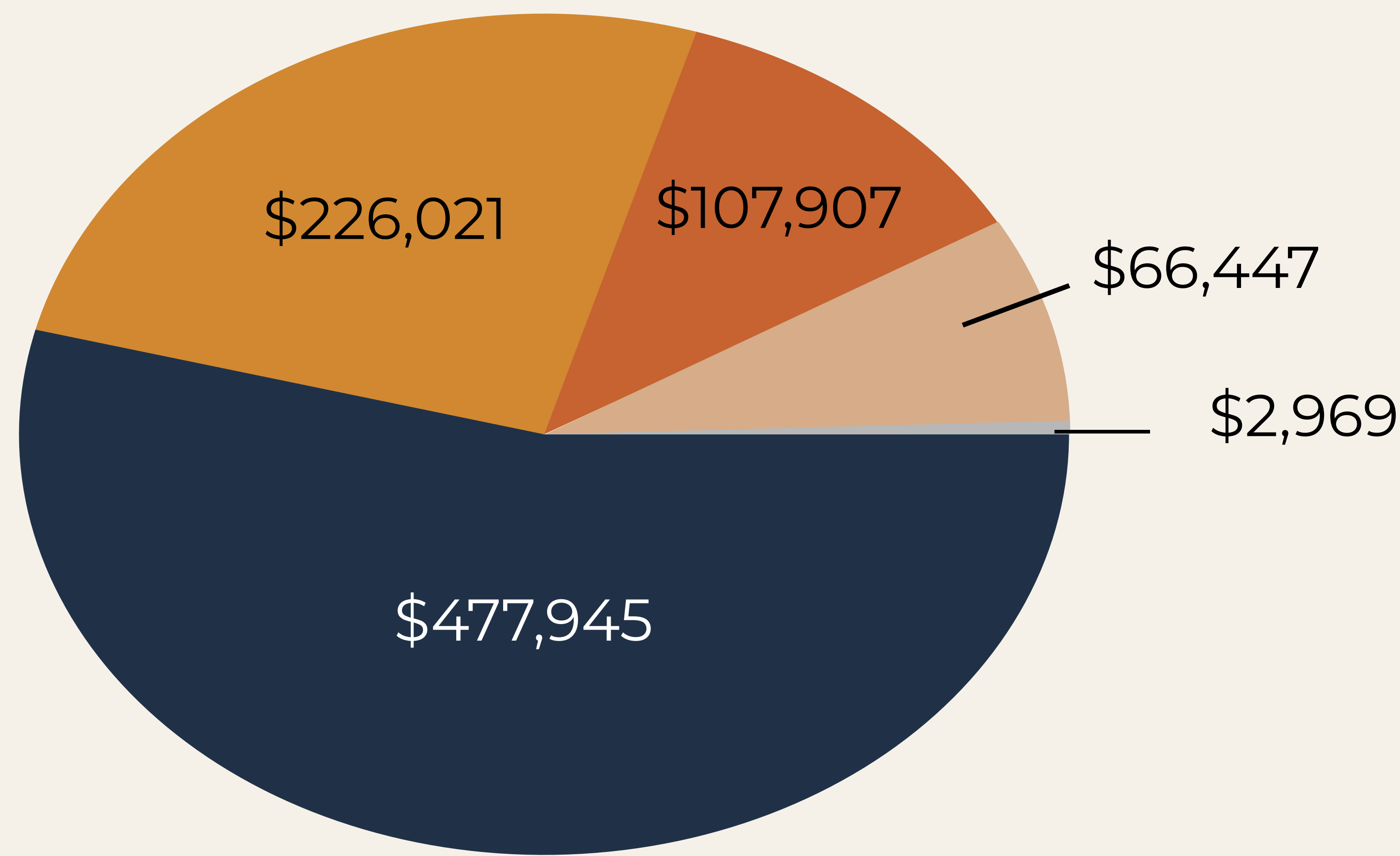


20%
Of profits
shared
amongst
staff

Our Finances

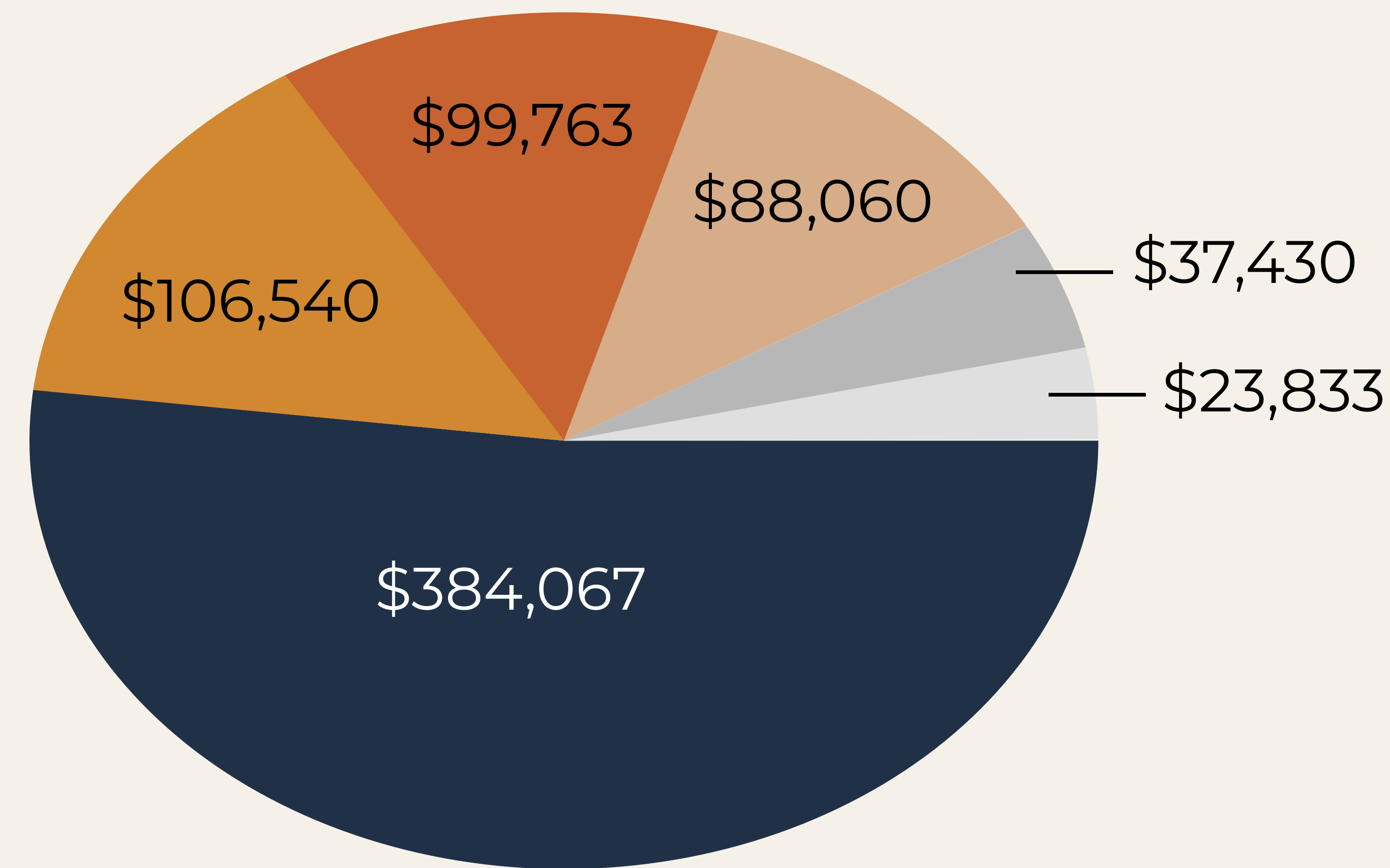
Combined finances for Brick by Brick Uganda and Brick by Brick Partners

2019 Income



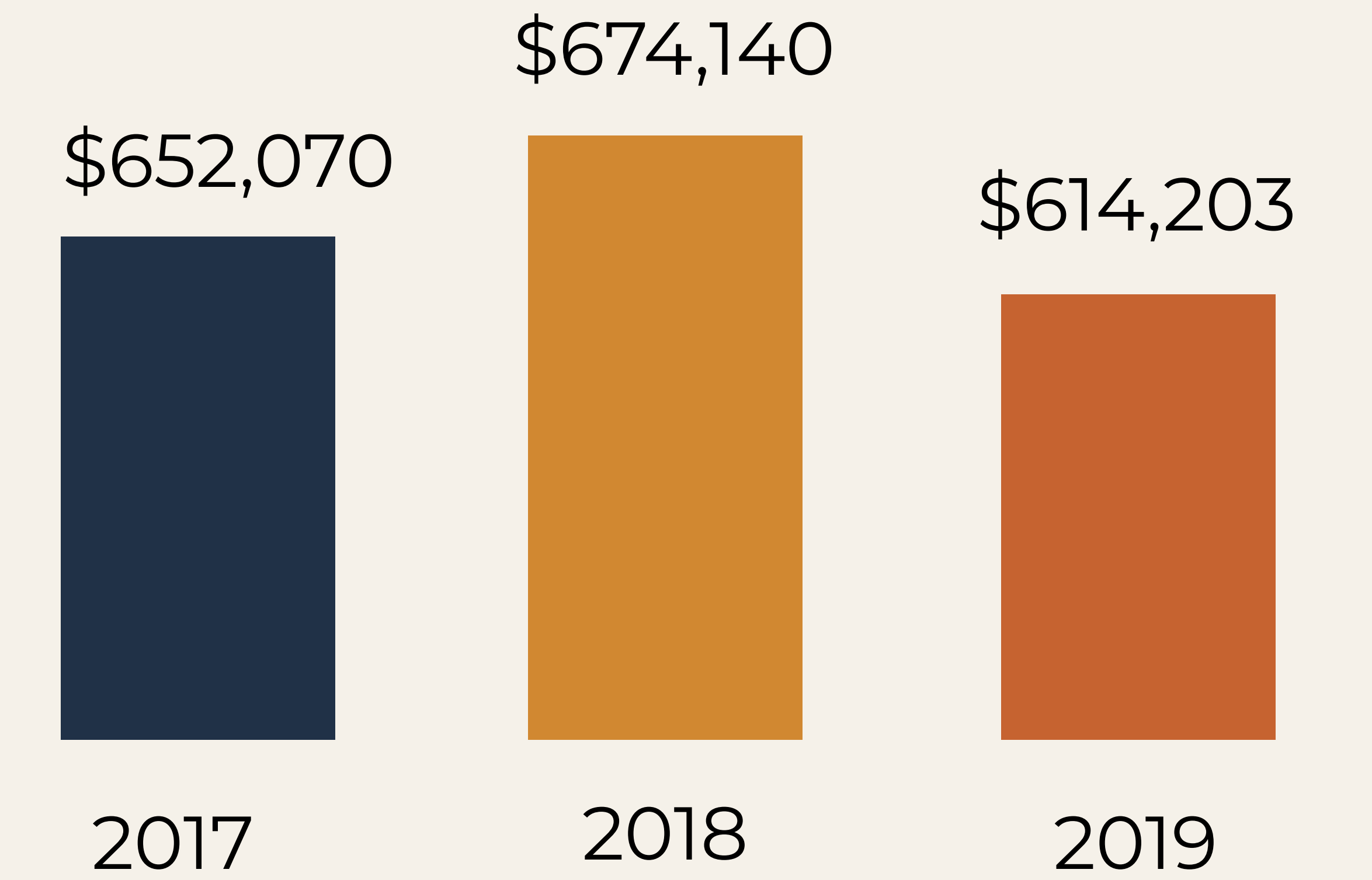
Total Income: \$881,289

2019 Expenses








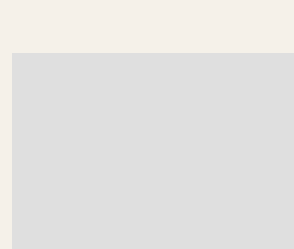
Total Expenses \$727,359

Program Spending: 2017- 2019



Program Spending: 2017- 2019

	FOUNDATIONS	\$477,945 (54%)
	INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$226,021 (26%)
	GOVERNMENT	\$107,907 (12%)
	EVENTS	\$66,447 (8%)
	OTHER	\$2,969 (0.3%)

	BAMA	\$384,067 (52%)
	SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$106,540 (14%)
	MY PADS/DREAMS	\$99,763 (13%)
	ADMINISTRATION	\$88,060 (12%)
	FUNDRAISING	\$37,430 (5%)
	INTERNSHIPS	\$23,833 (3%)

	2017	\$652,070
	2018	\$674,140
	2019	\$614,203

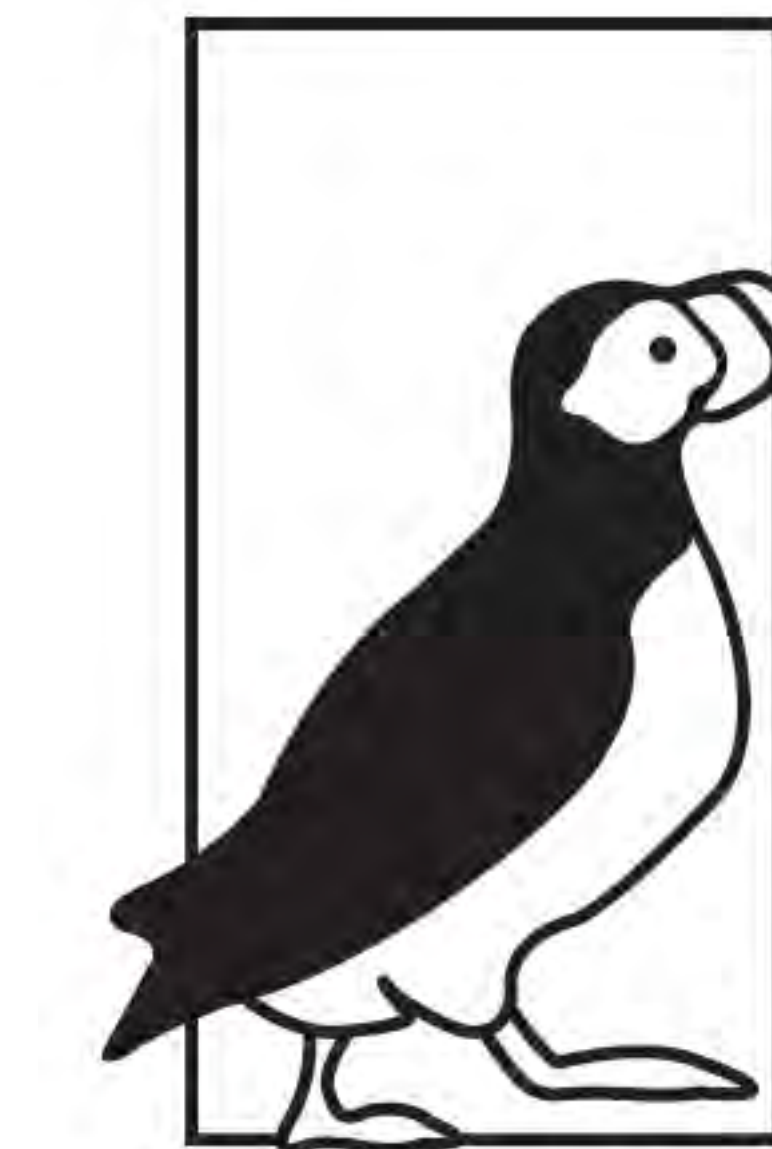
Thanks to our Partners



GOVERNMENT
OF UGANDA



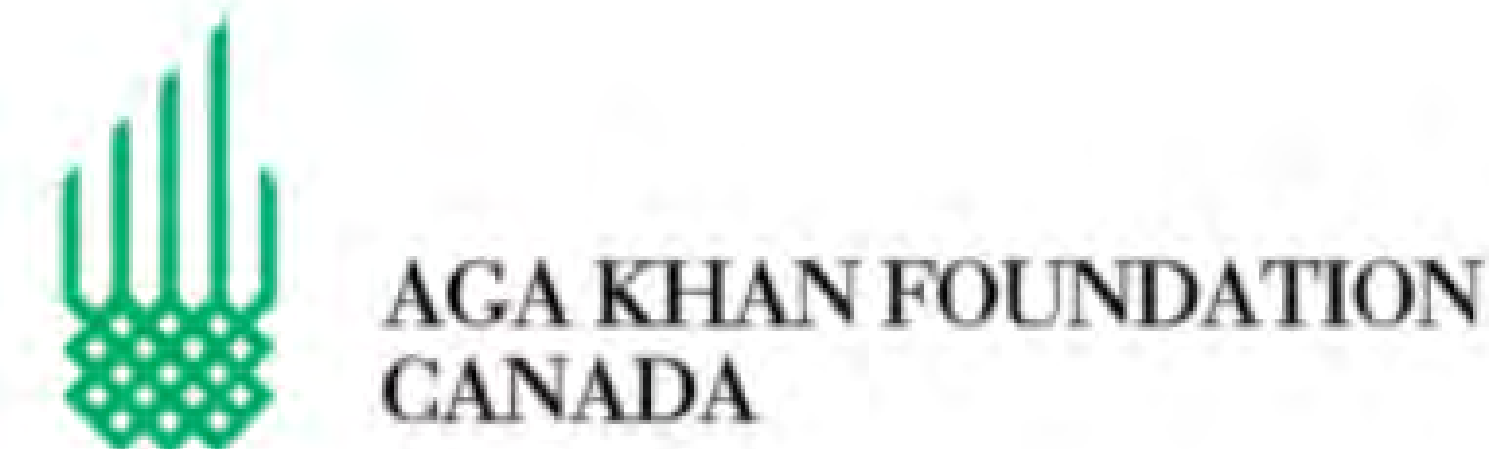
Nicoll Family Fund



The Puffin Foundation, Ltd.



A partnership of:



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

