



Annual Report 2024

Executive Summary

01

In 2024, Giving Hope Foundation made significant strides in empowering rural smallholder farmers in Hoima, Uganda through agroecology, climate action, and supporting women's economic empowerment. We welcomed 142 new farmers into our programs, expanding our reach to new villages. Our initiatives supported farmers with agricultural input loans, sustainable beekeeping, tree planting, and innovative urban farming techniques. All these efforts aimed at improving food security and economic resilience for rural smallholder farmers. DreamSave remained a strong solution that ensures all our Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are digitized and well managed. It also helps us to ensure that these farmers - mostly from poor background can access to financial inclusion. Climate action remained at the core of our work, with farmers receiving various training on bamboo growing and Grevillea tree planting.

Our clean energy program, supported by Global Giving, introduced gasifier stoves to reduce firewood dependency and promote biochar production. Meanwhile, our agricultural demonstration gardens continued to serve as valuable learning hub, showcasing innovative soil health techniques. The efforts ensure long-term environmental and economic benefits in rural communities.

Looking ahead to 2025, Giving Hope is committed to scaling up its programs by expanding microloan access for rural women, strengthening climate action initiatives, and implementing the Earth Rising grant for soil health projects in Hoima District. We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, donors, and communities for their unwavering support in helping smallholder farmers in Uganda to grow their way out of extreme poverty.

We look forward to your continued partnership and support.





Vision

To end extreme poverty among rural smallholder farming communities in Uganda.

Mission

To build thriving grassroots communities where economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and well-being are balanced for the long-term benefit of all.

Our Values

- ↘ **Creativity:** we encourage a safe and supportive space for experimentation and innovation to solve problems
- ↘ **Humility:** we show compassion and endeavor to understand, respect and value every individual
- ↘ **Integrity:** we do what we promise
- ↘ **Fairness:** we foster a culture that is equitable, diverse and mutually respectful; working towards relationships that are inclusive, trusting & participatory
- ↘ **Fun:** we value the enjoyment in creating, safe, friendly and productive working environments for everyone

Our Key Areas of Focus

03

Our three pillars to holistically transform rural communities.



01. Sustainable Agriculture

The principle of agricultural sustainability dictates that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Faced with increasing environmental challenges, smallholder farmers, who typically use small areas of land to meet family food and income needs must also learn to protect biodiversity.



02. Climate Action

Climate change is a global issue that is affecting communities, lives, businesses and economies all over the world. GHF is working to support more smallholder farmers in building resilience and adapting to climate change.



03. Women Empowerment

Economic empowerment allows women to control and benefit from resources, assets, and income. We have a special focus on empowering female farmers, as drivers for social change. We recognize that men are also an integral part of achieving healthy and thriving families.

Contributing to Sustainability Goals

At Giving Hope, our work is deeply linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This helps us ensure that our initiatives contribute to global efforts toward a more just, equitable, and sustainable future. Our programs are directly aligned with six key SDGs:



Smallholder farmers feed 80% of the world, yet they experience extreme poverty. We strategically integrate sustainable agriculture with climate action and livelihood improvement initiatives as a vehicle to end extreme poverty. We co-develop community programs that address unemployment, especially targeting youths and women.



Every household should have enough food to eat that is safe and nutritious. To achieve food security, we support smallholder farmers to transform their food systems, by adopting sustainable agricultural initiatives such as agroecology, soil health improvements, adopting organic products and mixed farming.



Healthy people are the foundation for healthy communities. Our climate-smart initiatives improve food security and nutrition, leading to healthier communities. Additionally, our initiatives reduce environmental risks such as deforestation, soil degradation, and exposure to indoor emissions among other benefits. All these actions contribute to healthier lives for rural farmers.



Gender equality is a necessary foundation for achieving peaceful, prosperous and sustainable rural communities. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) are core components to achieving our mission of ending extreme poverty. By integrating women and youths into decision-making and income-generating activities, we strengthen household resilience and community development.



Ensuring access to clean and affordable energy is crucial if we are to achieve economic growth and reduce environmental degradation. We help smallholder farmers access improved cookstoves and sustainable cooking fuels, which help reduce climate change and prevent diseases.



Every person on earth is being impacted by climate change in some shape or form. Extreme heat, changing rainfall and other climate change impacts put crop yields for smallholder farmers at risk. Our climate adaptation initiatives, such as bamboo growing, tree planting, and sustainable farming, help combat climate change and enhance resilience.



Achieving food sovereignty among rural smallholder farmers remains one of our main goals. We want to ensure that smallholder farmers have control over their food systems while promoting ecologically proven agricultural practices. In 2024, we expanded our agroecology programs by empowering farmers with knowledge and resources that enhance productivity while preserving the environment. We are helping farmers integrate regenerative farming techniques, such as intercropping, composting, utilising urine as a pesticide and fertiliser as well as amending their already degraded soils using biochar. These efforts are helping the farmers improve soil fertility and crop yields without reliance on expensive chemical inputs. These efforts not only boost food security and household incomes, they also reinforce resilience against climate change. In 2024, we have focused on capacity-building through farmer-led training sessions. Our demonstration gardens have played a pivotal role in showcasing practical techniques-



including the benefits of diversified soil treatments and natural pest control methods. These knowledge-sharing initiatives have strengthened communal learning, fostering a culture where farmers support one another in adopting sustainable agricultural practices. The introduction of sack gardening and vegetable farming has further expanded food production possibilities, particularly for families in resource-constrained areas. Looking ahead to 2025, we will continue working on our agroecological initiatives. We plan to enhance soil health through increased biochar application, introduce a community organic seed bank and a community pee-collection point, and strengthen farmer access to markets for their produce. We want to prioritise local solutions and more farmer-driven innovations. These efforts will help advance food sovereignty and ensure that rural communities have the tools and knowledge to feed themselves and improve their incomes sustainably.

Fighting poverty through Beekeeping

06

In 2024, we launched our campaign to promote beekeeping as a sustainable source of income for rural farmers. Beekeeping can be a vehicle to sustain the environment and improve the earning capacity of poor rural farmers. Honey production per hive increases steadily as apiary management improves. A working hive produces minimum of 10 litres of honey and 3 kgs of beeswax per harvest in the first year.



After recognizing the potential of apiculture to enhance biodiversity, improve crop yields through pollination, and generate income, we trained 10 farmers in modern beekeeping techniques. These farmers went on to form the Beekeeping Farmers Group, where they meet regularly to share knowledge, and challenges as well as save money to buy group equipment.

Seven members received beehives which were donated by different individuals through our [Beekeeping campaign on GlobalGiving](#). The farmers faced several challenges in colonising their hives, however, we are happy to report that all colonies are now well-established. We expect the first honey harvest is expected in June 2025. This initiative not only provides an alternative livelihood for smallholder farmers but also strengthens climate resilience by fostering ecosystems that support pollinators and enhance local biodiversity.

Our goal is to raise more funds to expand the beekeeping program to reach at least 65 farmers, targeting women and youths, who often face barriers to economic empowerment. We will also provide continuous training in apiary management and value addition, plus offer support to access market.

Microloans to improve Livelihoods

07



In 2024, we launched a microloan initiative to empower grassroots women entrepreneurs by providing both financial support and business training. Five women underwent intensive training in budgeting, marketing, and leadership. This equipped them with essential skills to grow their businesses. In December, each participant received a \$300 microloan to invest in their enterprises, allowing them to expand operations and increase household income.

“In a recent survey, 86 percent of women under our Village Savings and Loan Associations reported that their quality of life “very much improved after joining us”.



The women will benefit from a year of mentoring and monitoring. This hands-on approach will help them navigate challenges, and refine and optimise their business operations. At the end of the loan cycle, they will repay the funds, making them available for the next group of women entrepreneurs. This revolving loan model ensures the sustainability of the initiative, which will create a continuous cycle of empowerment. The funds for the program were raised through one generous donor to our campaign on [Micro-loans to rural Women entrepreneurs in Uganda](#) via GlobalGiving.

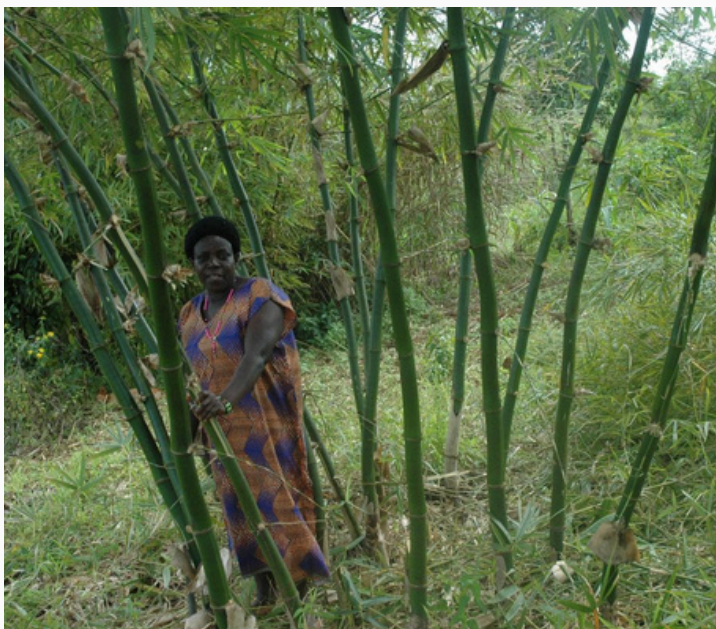
Building Bamboo-Based Agroforestry

08



Bamboo is a multipurpose, highly dependable plant with a wide range of potential applications. It can provide smallholder farmers with environmental, economic, and livelihood protection. Bamboo is also an excellent resource for carbon sequestration as one of the fastest-growing plants on earth.

Through your generous support to our [Climate Change adoption for 100 Farmers in Uganda](#) campaign in 2022, we distributed 865 seedlings to 91 farmers in Kitoba sub-county, Hoima district. We have been monitoring progress the bamboo. The farmers have had follow-up training in pruning and maintenance techniques to ensure healthy growth and long-term productivity. We have also been supporting them to integrate bamboo with other initiatives like beekeeping and agroecology. These efforts align with our broader goal of conserving biodiversity and creating climate-resilient farming systems. While commercial harvesting is still 1-2 years away, the foundations for a sustainable bamboo-based economy are now in place. The smallholder farmers are happy with the initiative and are increasingly recognizing bamboo as a valuable resource for erosion control, construction and sustainable land use.



Our next focus is to train the farmers in value addition and market development to maximize the financial benefits of their bamboo. We will continue to supporting them to integrate bamboo with new agroecological practices, so as to build resilient and profitable farming systems for a sustainable future.

Partnering to Grow our Impact



Partnerships are pivotal in facilitating and accelerating growth in the global society in today's interconnected world. We are strategically working to create networks in order to leverage skills, expertise, and funds in order to achieve our mission of ending extreme poverty in the grassroots communities we serve. We are proud to be associated with the following institutions, and we look forward to continuing our collaborations.



We are active members of the [Agroecology Coalition](#), where we participate in the Implementation and Research, Innovation, and Education Working Groups. This will help us support our beneficiary communities in building sustainable agriculture based on the 13 principles of agroecology.



In our efforts to best support research, policy, and operational implementation for nutrient recovery from underutilised organic resources, we are proud to be a part of the [Circular Bionutrients Economy Network \(CBEN\)](#). Through this collaboration, we are actively creating synergies to implement nutrients recovery from crop residues, and human excreta to produce fertilisers and soil amendments for farmers.



We are collaborating well with the [Action Network Worldwide](#) (and [Weltweit](#)), a coalition that serves as a platform for several social organisations with the same mission: Power to the People!



We are excited by the opportunity to strengthen our collaboration with the [Rich Earth Institute](#) further strengthened as our fiscal sponsor for the implementation project to improve soil health and enhance agricultural sustainability in Hoima District, Uganda. This project is being supported by Earth Rising Foundation.



GlobalGiving

Last but not least, we are glad to have been in partnership with [GlobalGiving](#). Through them, we have been able to raise financial support for our project from individuals from around the world.



Future Outlook

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Future Plan

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Inovation

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Partner with us today.

11

Please consider partnering with us today by making a gift to Giving Hope Foundation, which enables us to address pressing community priorities that are essential to ending extreme poverty.

Help us keep the work moving by donating at www.gh-f.org/donate or reach out to Nolbert (nolbert@gh-f.org) to learn more about partnering with us.

“Separately, we can have an impact; but only together, on a solid foundation, can we build the future we all hope for”.





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