



A Little Gesture

Annual Report

2023



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A Little Gesture A Great Help (ALG)

About us

ALG is a non-profit organization recognized by the Charity Commission for England and Wales since 2011.

In 2023, ALG reached >3 250 direct beneficiaries in the province of Gaza, Mozambique, in its joint operation with sister charity UPG Portugal¹.

Vision

Break the cycle of poverty in Mozambique

Mission

Promote the improvement of the living conditions of every child in the needy communities in southern Mozambique.





Letter from the Chairman

Whenever the year comes to an end, we stop to reflect and look at what we have achieved in a year that always ends up being too short for all that we want to do. Anxious to do more, it is now time to admire what we have accomplished with wonder and share with gratitude with you friends, donors and partners, who have allowed us to go further.

What are after all these Little Gestures we do in Mozambique?

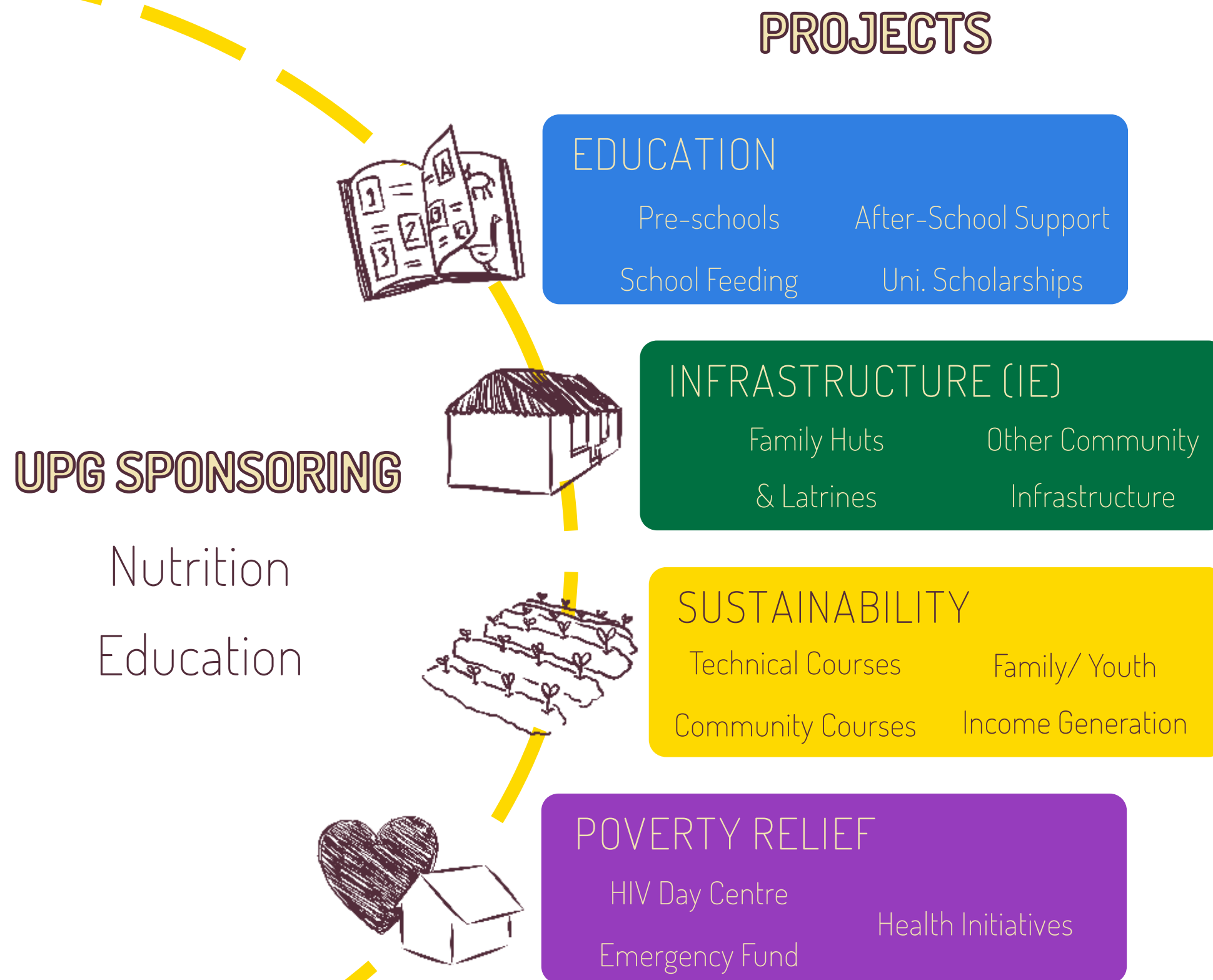
- Little Gestures that take 11'500 food baskets to 630 families of 960 sponsored children;
 - ✓ *Did you know we have distributed 57 tons of rice and 35 tons of flour, amongst other basic staples?*
- Little Gestures that cooked more than 390 thousand meals for 2388 children every school day, for many their only hot meal of the day;
 - ✓ *Did you know we cooked 39 tons of rice and 29 tons of beans?*
- Little Gestures that allowed 118 children to take their first steps in pre-school education, for a total of 205 children across all our pre-schools;
 - ✓ *Did you know this year we were able to build a new kitchen at the Pre-School Santa Catarina?*
- Little Gestures that allowed 13 young adults to join our higher studies scholarships program, of which 77% are female;
 - ✓ *Did you know 2 of our students graduated in 2023?*

This year, which was special to me as I visited Mozambique after a few years away, I could observe again close by the power of Little Gestures. More than anything, I could see the young generation that is emerging into adulthood and really having a different life. Like José, João, Gil. Each with their life permeated by independence and no doubt marked by the existence of Little Gestures. Each with the right to their own dream.

Every day, the A Little Gesture team in Portugal, the UK and Mozambique seeks to do more for these children. For each of their gestures, I thank them profoundly. We close the year feeling proud for our children and young adults, with a feeling of gratitude for our donors, happy that we can make a difference.

The children grow, the dreams as well. We want and know we can do more. And we will in 2024!

Sara Vicente Barreto – ALG Founder



How we operate

The Child at the Center of Our Intervention

ALG accomplishes its mission by providing in-depth, personalised support to each child, promoting nutrition, education, and empowerment in a healthy and dignified environment.

>35k

children supported since 2011

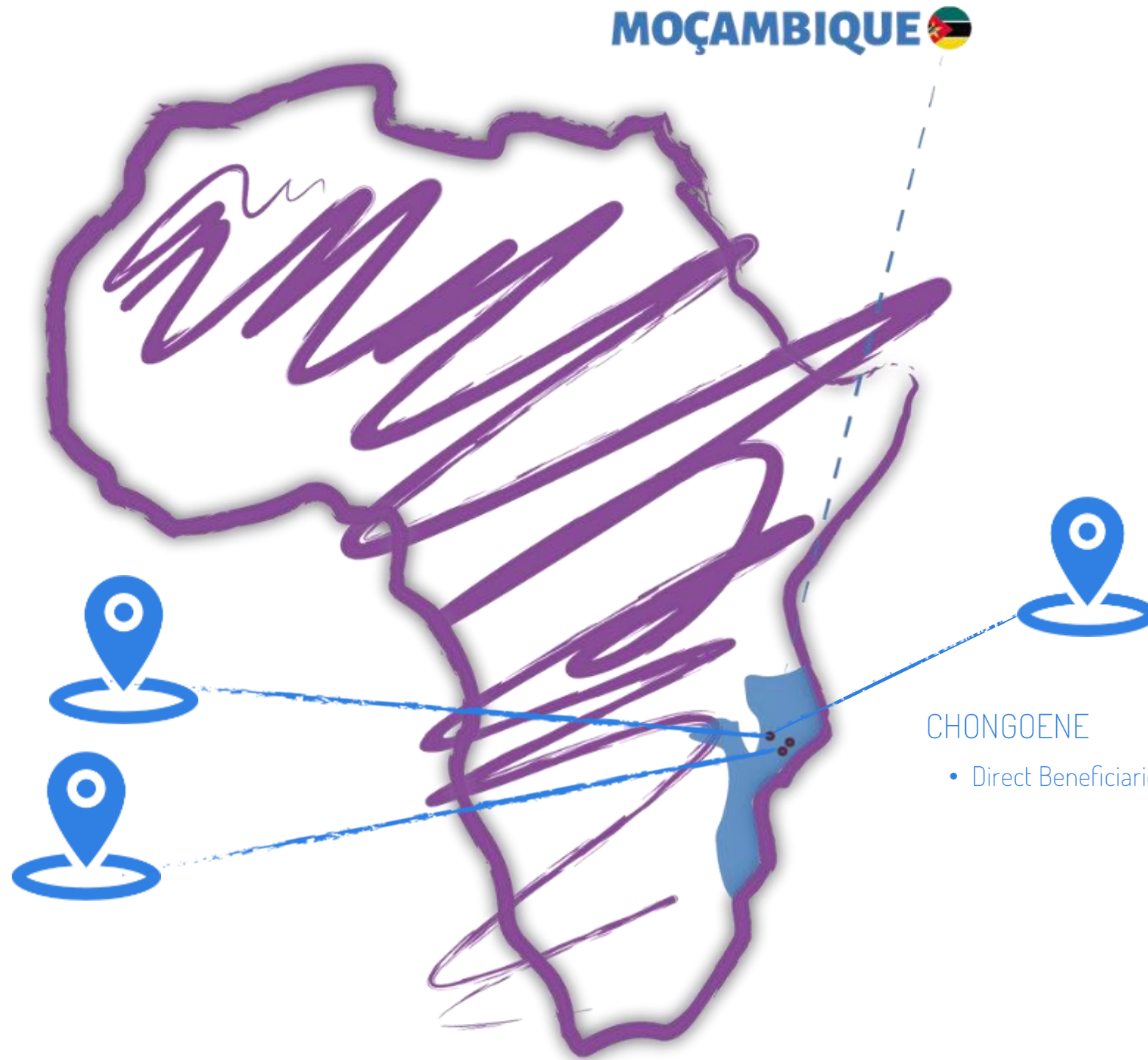
£813k

disbursed since 2011

A Little Gesture Mozambique

2023

MOÇAMBIQUE



CHOKWÉ

- Direct Beneficiaries: >1200

CHONGOENE

- Direct Beneficiaries: >325

XAI -XAI

- Direct Beneficiaries: >300

2023 BENEFICIARIES

3 095

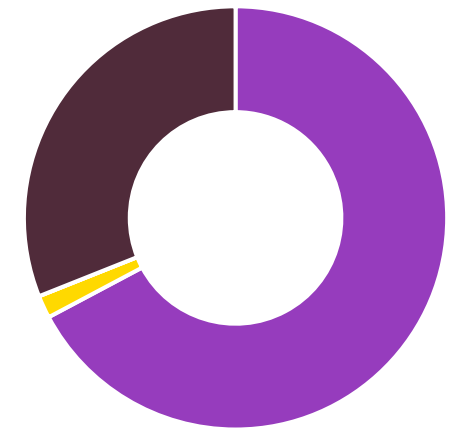
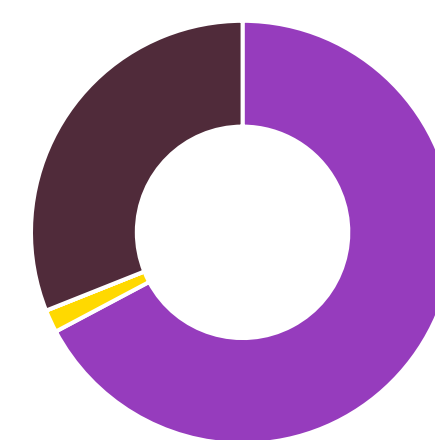
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

£ RAISED
BY PROJECT

£39 997

£ APPLIED
BY TYPE

£71 588



■ Education ■ Poverty ■ Infrastructure ■ Sustainability ■ General

CASE STUDY



Almira

Former UPG Sponsored Child, Former
Local Technician, University Scholarship
Student

Almira is 21 years old and has been with ALG since she was, in the UPG Sponsorship Program at Santa Luisa de Marillac School in Manjanguê, when she started fifth grade. With her great affection for children, her childhood dream was to become a teacher.

With ALG, Almira took part in several professional technical courses, such as the Culinary Arts technical course (2016) and the Cutting and Sewing technical course (2018). In 2021, she finished 12th grade and enrolled at the Teacher Training Centre in Inhambane, but unfortunately was unable to continue her course.

In 2022, her motivation and proactivity led her to become a tutor for the After School Support project at Santa Luísa de Marillac. In this activity, Almira took her first professional steps and realised that her great passion is supporting and helping people. At the end of the year, Almira was accepted onto a university scholarship and is now studying General Nursing.

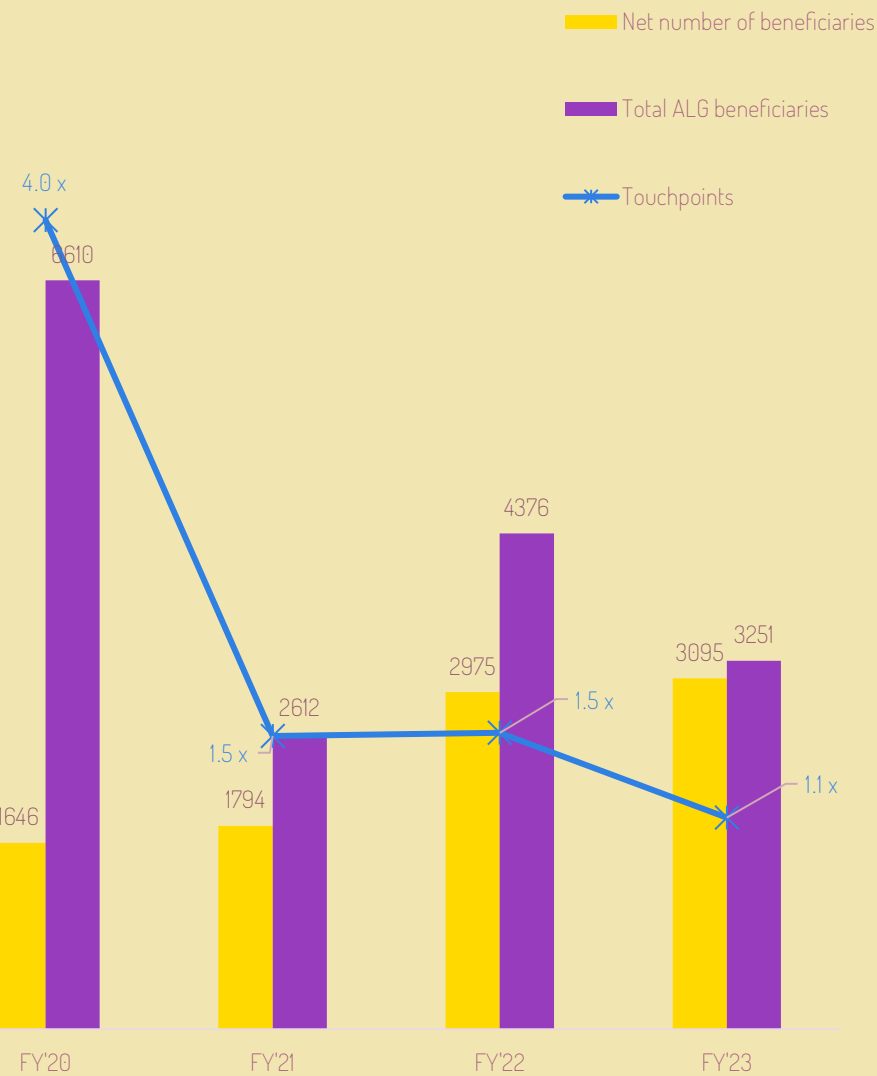
INCREASING FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

ALG is focused on female empowerment by investing in women's education and training. This boosts self-confidence, reduces gender inequality and encourages women and girls to stand up for themselves and fight for their rights. The more empowered they are, the greater their power and control over their own lives.

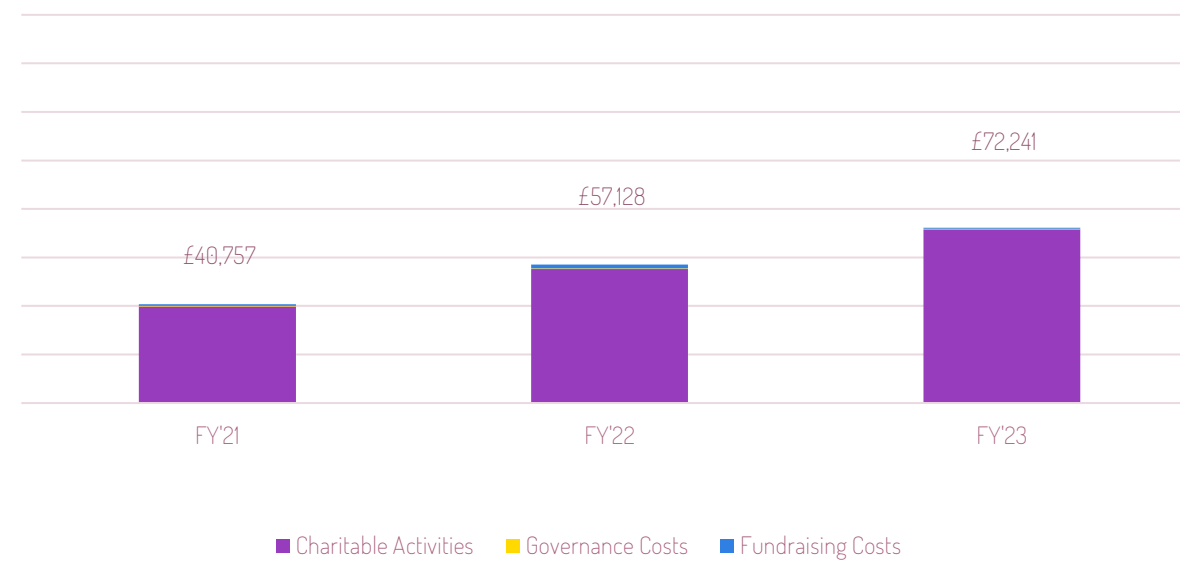
ALG IN NUMBERS

2021-2023

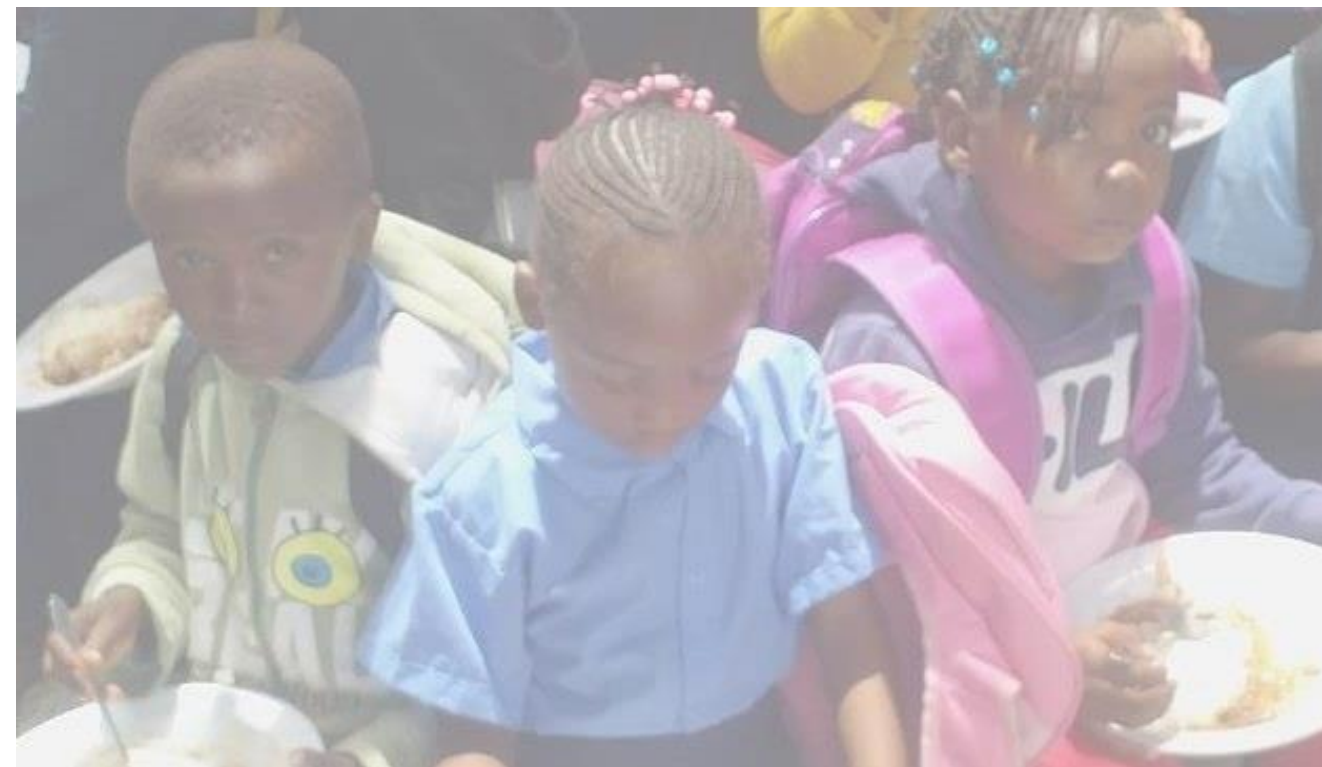
ALG Beneficiaries



Applied Funds by Type



Source of Funds by Project



Nota: Net number of beneficiaries reflects unique number of children who benefit from one or more A Little Gesture initiatives. Note that 2020 was an emergency year, with several initiatives dedicated to the same beneficiaries during the pandemic.

PROJECTS

The ALG Projects are local intervention initiatives that complement the UPG Sponsorship program. These initiatives enable the beneficiary children and their families to grow up in a context of opportunity and to meet the necessary conditions to break the poverty cycle .



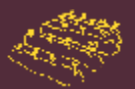
EDUCATION

Pre-school | School Feeding | After-School Support | Uni Scholarship



INFRASTRUCTURES

Housing | Community Infrastructure



SUSTAINABILITY

Technical Education | Income Generation



POVERTY RELIEF

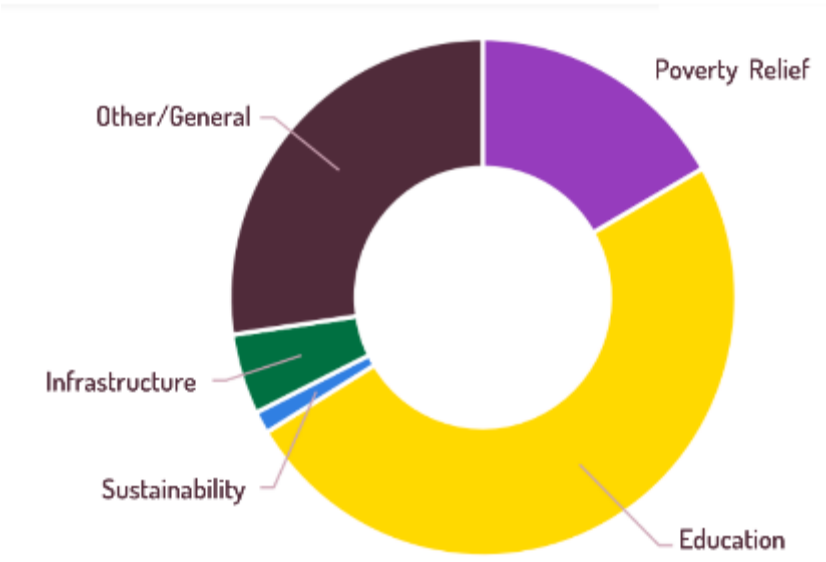
HIV Day Centre | One-off support | Hygiene & Health | Emergency Relief



Projects

Intervention Areas

POVERTY RELIEF	Direct support for very vulnerable populations
EDUCATION	Education for children and young adults
INFRASTRUCTURE	Improved living conditions for families and communities
SUSTAINABILITY	Technical education and income generation in families

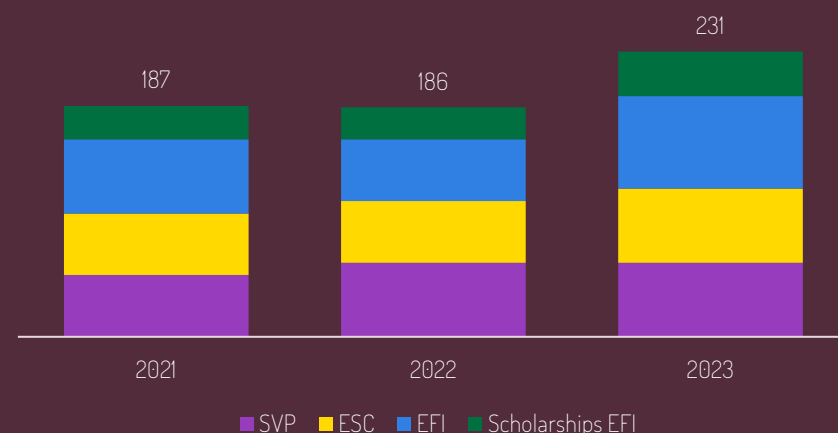


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# BENEFICIARIES (1)	1'626	1'646	1'794	2'975	3'095
# INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES	8'130	8'230	8'970	14'725	15'475
APPLIED FUNDS	£108 641	£90 089	£78 621	£40 757	£57 128
% EDUCATION	64%	32%	41%	48%	85%
% POVERTY RELIEF	28%	65%	42%	37%	8%
% SUSTAINABILITY	7%	3%	7%	0%	0%
% GENERAL	0%	0%	10%	15%	7%
FUNDS RECEIVED	£99 974	£101 975	£89 336	£89 556	£38 997



231 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3 AND 5, DISTRIBUTED AMONG 3 SCHOOLS:

Beneficiaries Historical Evolution



Sustainable
Development
Goals (SDG)



LOCATION:

Xai Xai
Chongoene
Chokwé

KEY DONORS:

The Mac Bevan
Charitable Trust
UPG - Ribacapital
UPG - TVCabo
Moçambique

156£ Per Child Per Year

13£ Per Child Per Month

Pre-school Education

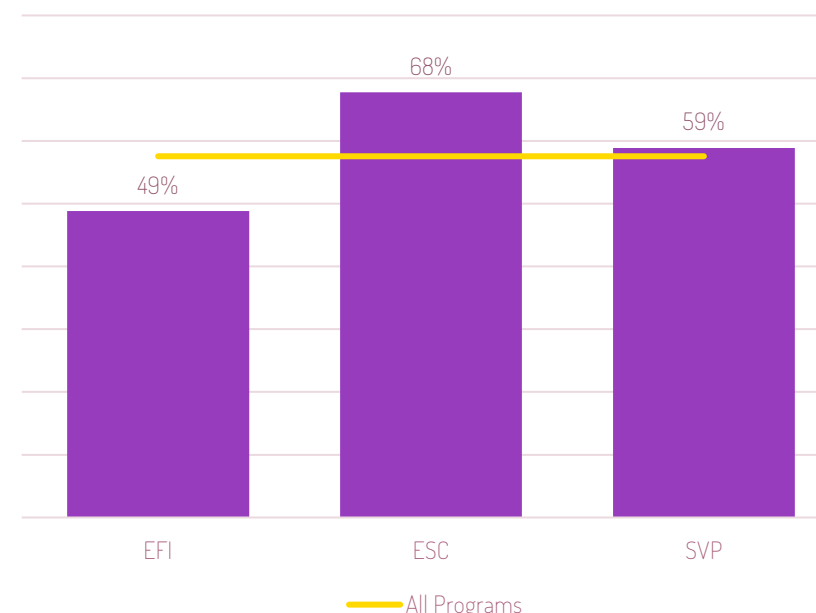
2023 Highlights

- At Escolinha de Santa Catarina, the highlight was the construction of the school kitchen, planned for a long time and which brought joy to the entire school, especially to its Cook, who now has a healthy and well cared environment to cook
- At Escolinha Flor da Infância and Escolinha de Santa Catarina, progress continues in the involvement of the Parents Committee, which supports the celebration of children's birthdays and in monitoring relevant issues at the Escolinhas
- Also noteworthy is the training given to the teachers at Escolinha de S. Vicente de Paulo

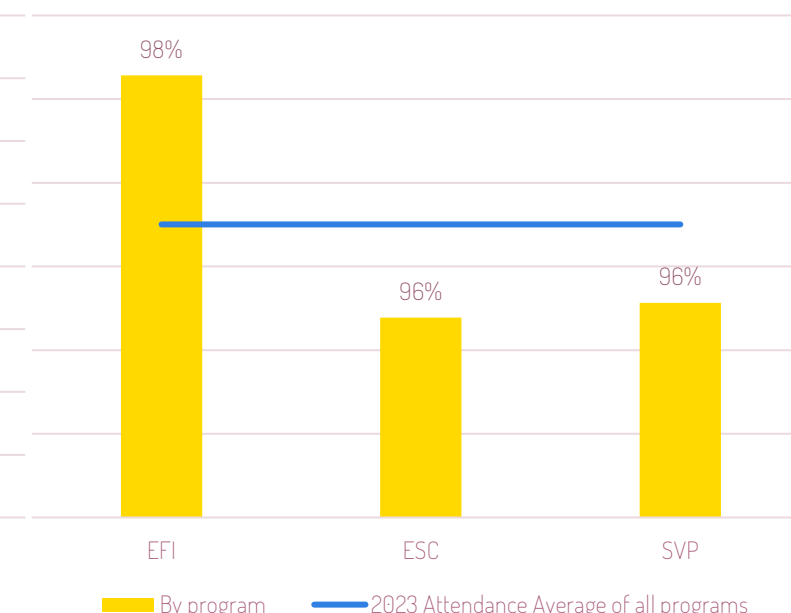
Historical Costs Evolution 2021-2023



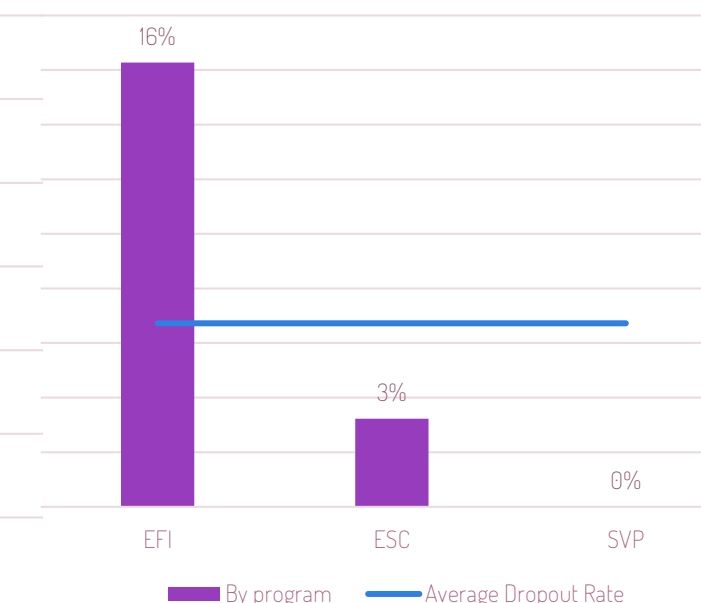
Female % by Program



Attendance by School



Dropout Rate by Program



Notes:

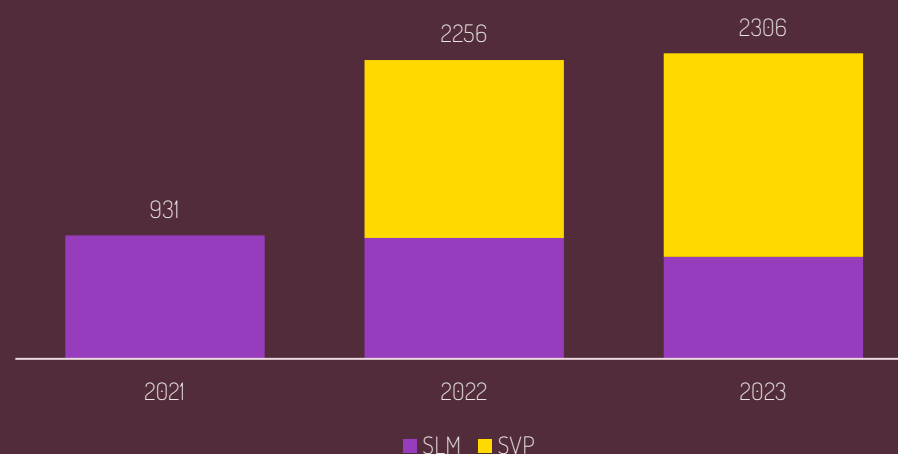
Project Expenses or Project Costs are shown throughout the document, which refer to the local project expenses, which may or not be the same as the disbursements made to the ground. When an excess or deficit remains, it is carried over to the next year of the project. Project expenses are shown inclusive of the projects co-funded with UPG.



School Feeding

2 306 CHILDREN WHO BENEFIT FROM SCHOOL MEALS IN 2 LOCATIONS

Beneficiaries Historical Evolution



2023 Highlights

- In 2023, the São Vicente de Paulo Food Program expanded to 5 days a week as planned through the co-financing from Instituto Camões, with a positive impact on school attendance and retention
- Also noteworthy is the collaboration and exchange of experiences between the Santa Luísa and São Vicente Schools, achieving best practices in both projects

Historical Costs Evolution 2021-2023



SDG:



LOCATION:

Chokwé
Manjangue

KEY DONORS:

ALG RPHM 2024
Private Donours Xmas
Appeal
UPG - Seth, S.A.
UPG - Instituto Camões I.
P.

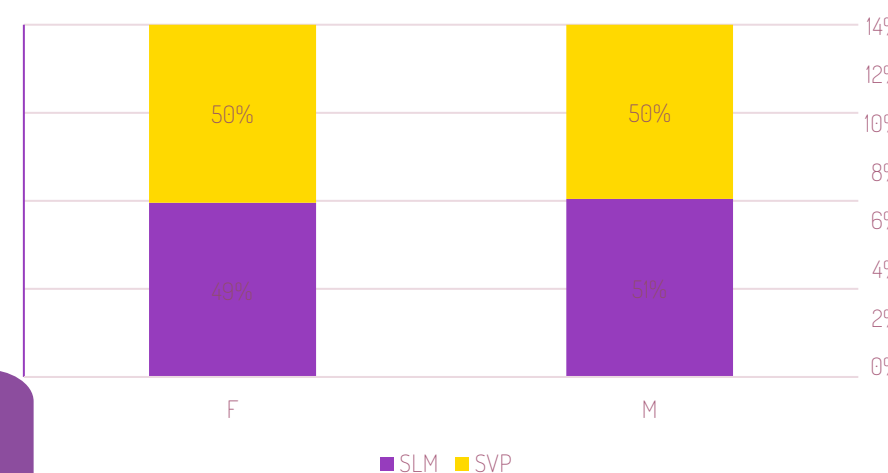
39£

Per Child Per Year

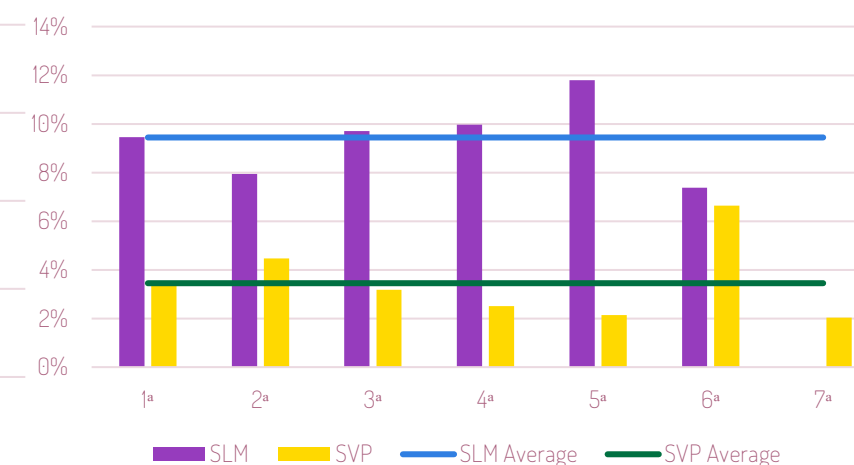
3£

Per Child Per Month

Beneficiaries Per Gender



Weight % Variation



Attendance Rate



Notes:

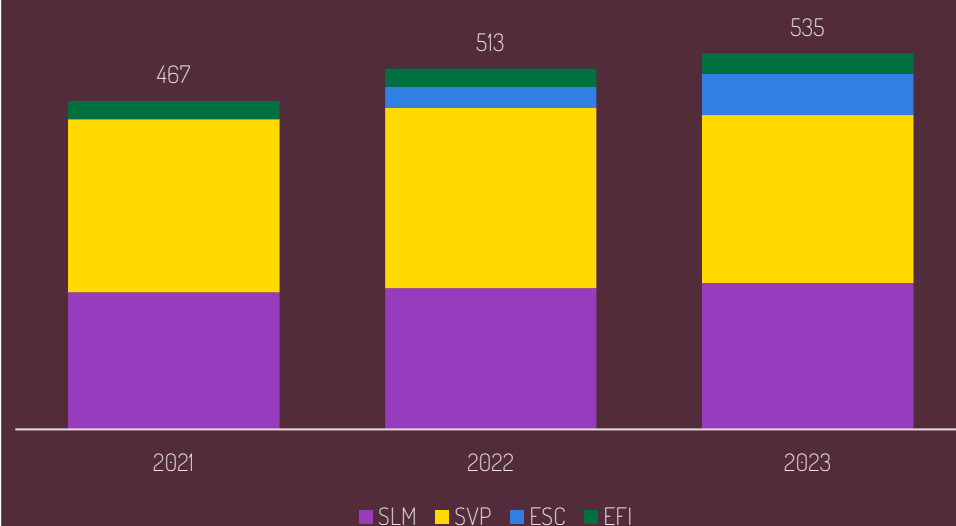
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507 CHILDREN, FROM 1ST TO 12TH GRADE, IN 4

AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT CLASSES:

Beneficiaries Historical Evolution



LOCATION:

Xai Xai,
Chongoene
Chokwé
Manjangué

KEY DONORS:

The Mac Bevan Charitable
Trust
UPG - Moza Banco
UPG - BCI Moçambique
UPG - Ribacapital

41£

Per Child Per Year

2£

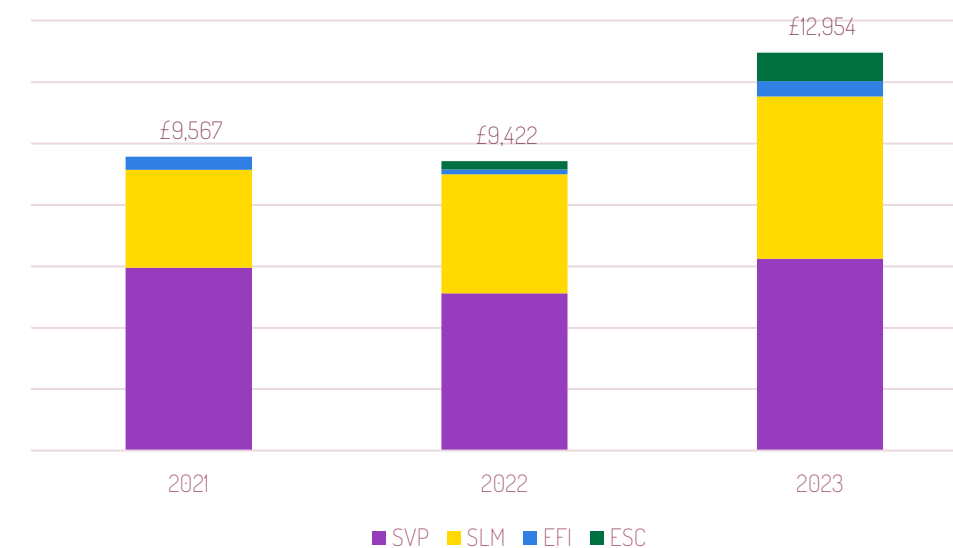
Per Child Per Month

After-School Support

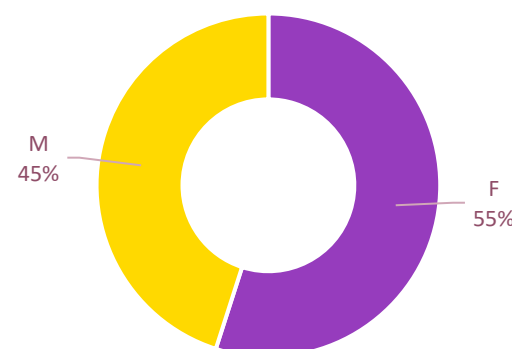
2023 Highlights

- Focus on improving after-school support classes, with an in-depth analysis of the project results in 2023, while planning changes for 2024,
- Training given to After-School Support monitors
- Good progress in the socio-cultural activities at São Vicente de Paulo and Santa Luísa de Marilac, as well as with the Sports Days
- Significant increase in the number of students at Escolinha de Santa Catarina approaching the target of 60 established at the beginning of the year, with a significant number of them being Sponsored Children from the surrounding communities.

Historical Costs Evolution 2021-2023



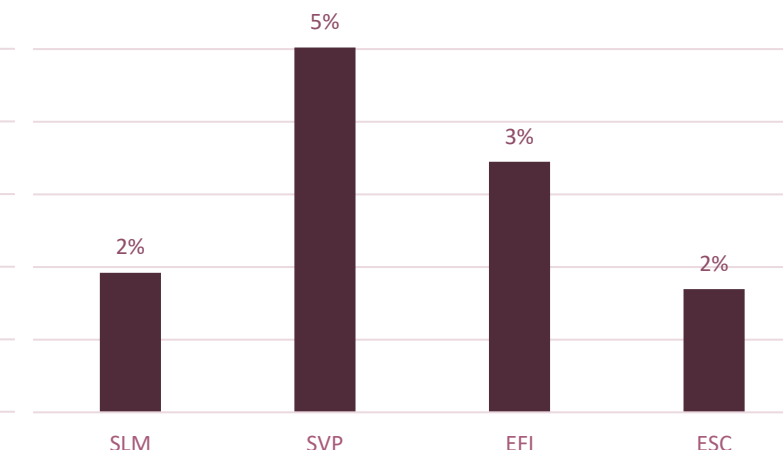
Gender



Attendance %



Dropout Rate



Notes:

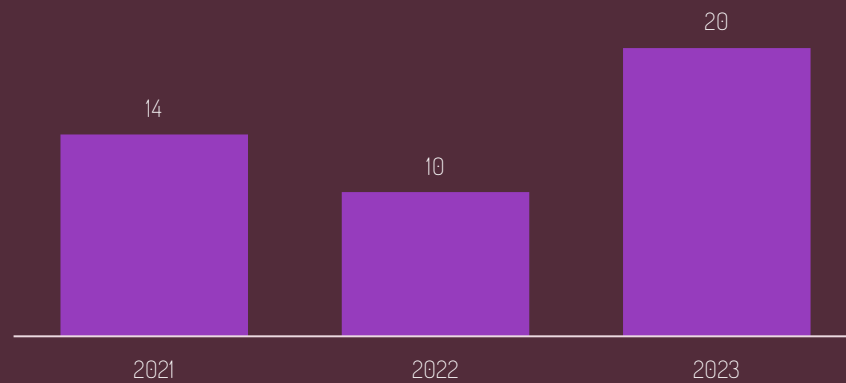
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SDG:



20 YOUNG PEOPLE, ACROSS 2 MAIN REGIONS

Beneficiaries Historical Evolution



LOCATION:

Xai Xai
Chokwé

KEY DONORS:

UPG and ALG Private
Donors
UPG - Câmara Municipal
de Cascais
UPG - AgeCascais

1 341£ Per Student per Year

112£ Per Student Per Month

Uni Scholarship



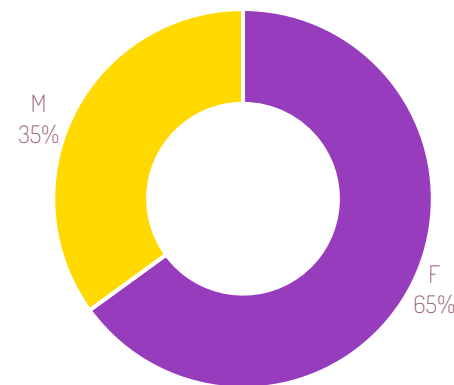
2023 Highlights

- Significant expansion of the program in 2023 after post-Covid slowdown
- Out of 48 potential high-school graduates, A Little Gesture received 22 applications and approved 13 new candidates,
- Introduction of a scholarship coordinator per zone and monthly monitoring of scholarship recipients
- 1 graduation in 2023: Artemisa – Zootechnical Engineering

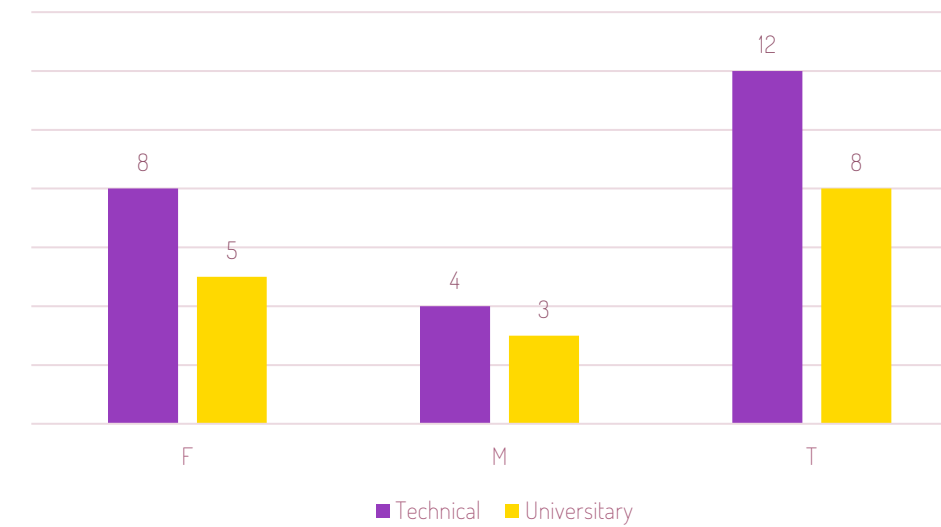
Historical Costs Evolution 2021-2023



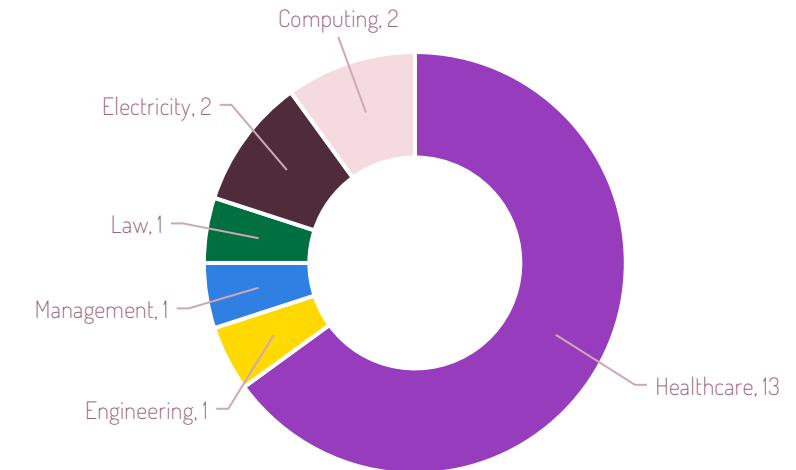
By Gender



By Scholarship Type



By Field



Notes:

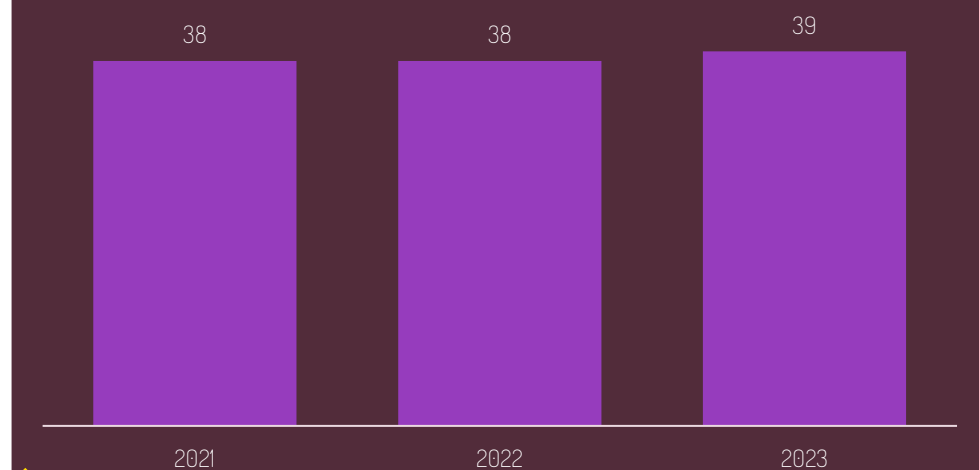
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SDG:



39 CHILDREN, AGED BETWEEN 7 AND 21:

Beneficiaries Historical Evolution



LOCATION:

Manjangué

KEY DONORS:

UPG Private Donour
ALG Year-End Appeal

590 £ Per Child Per Year

49 £ Per Child Per Month

HIV Day Center

2023 Highlights

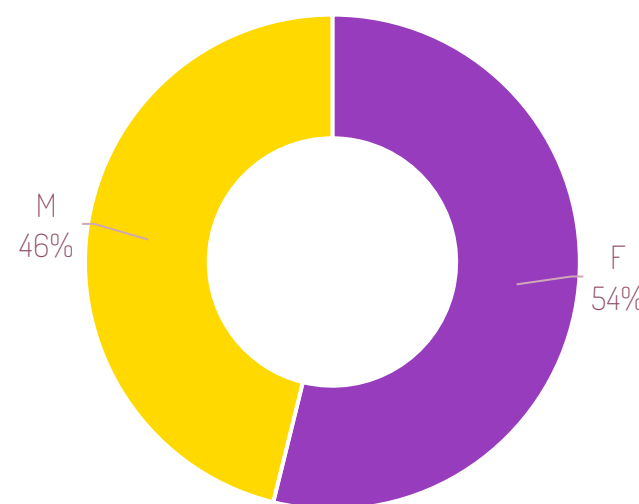
- Progress in integrating Day Center activities with other School activities
- 6 new children: Ivone, Flora, Anatércia, Yurca, Afonso, Quelrla
- Continuation of learning how to cut and sew with the Tailor
- Strengthening arts activities



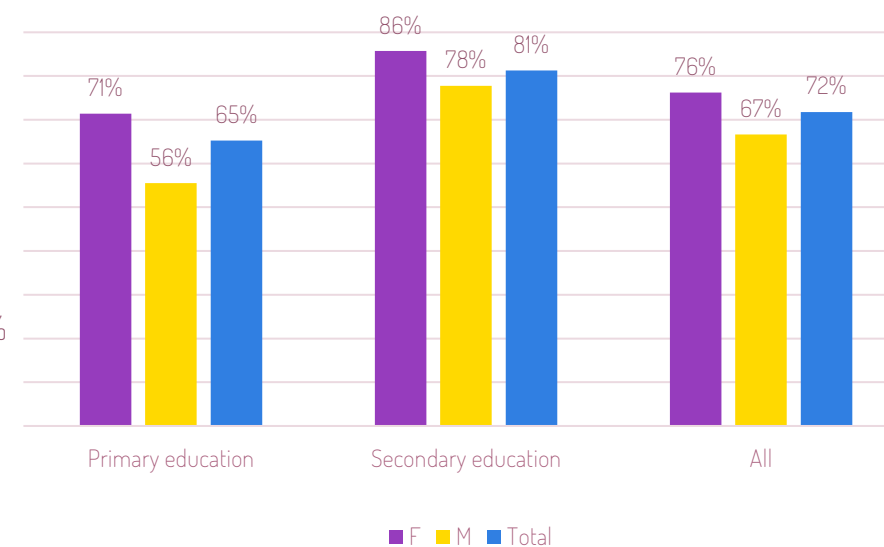
Historical Costs Evolution 2021-2023



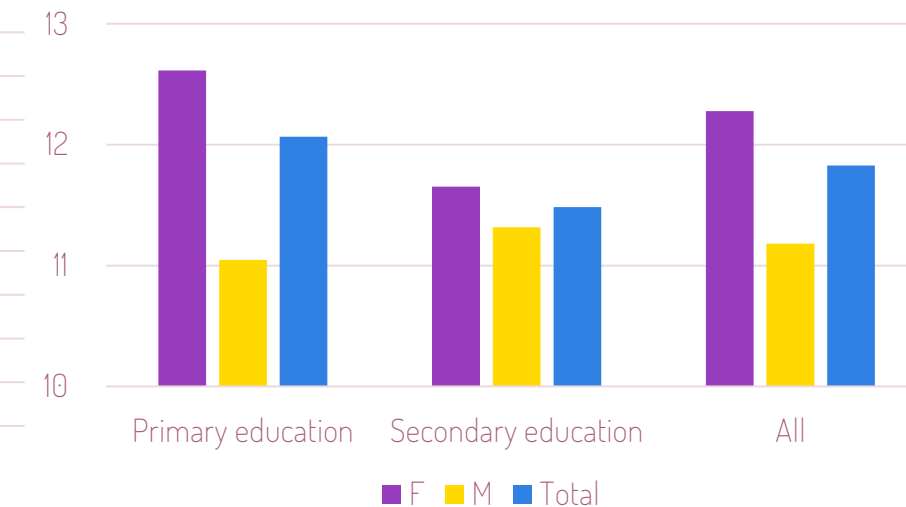
By Gender



Approval Rate



Average Final Grade



Notes:

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SDG:



FUNDRAISING

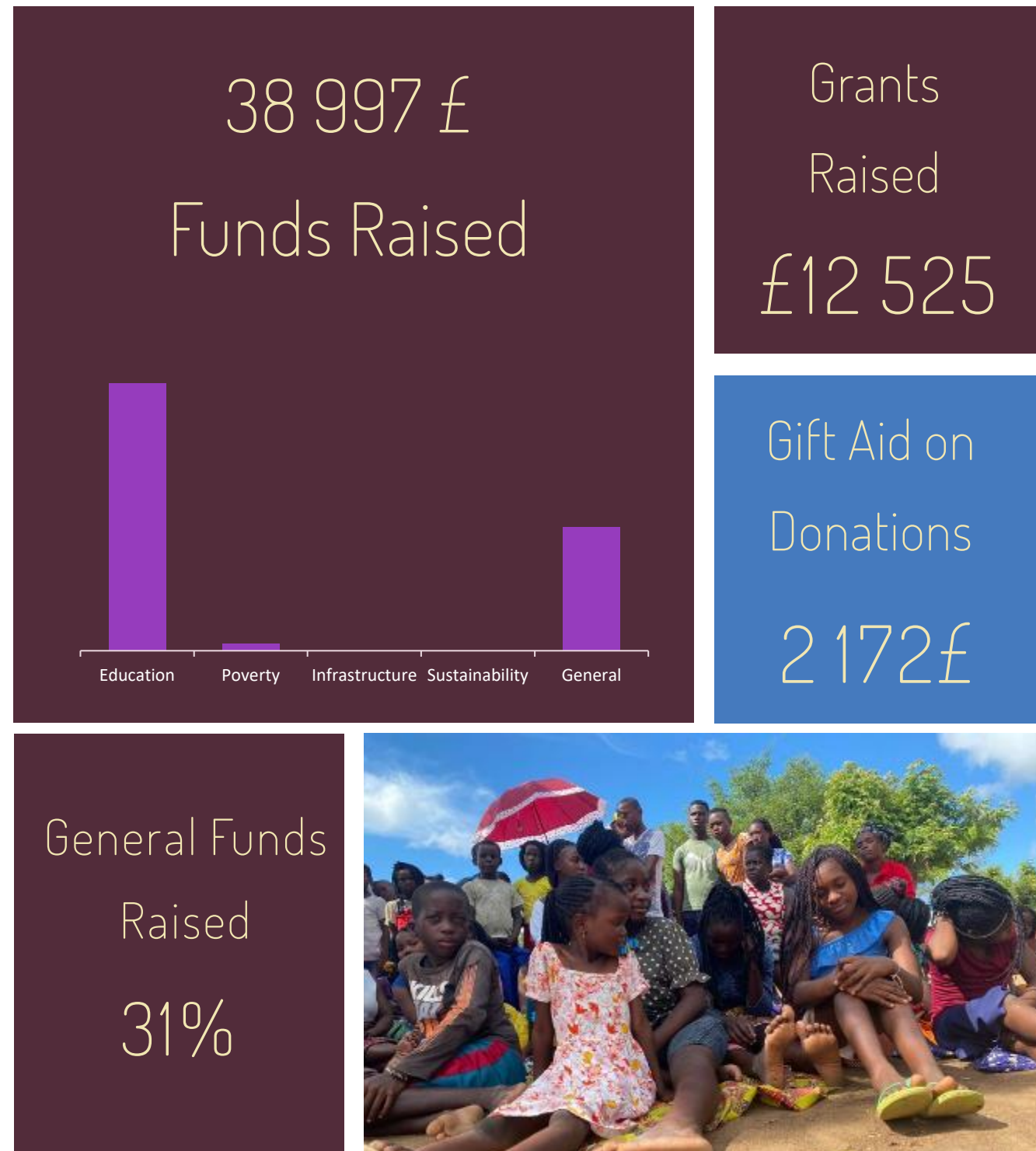
Fundraising Summary

Fundraising Channels

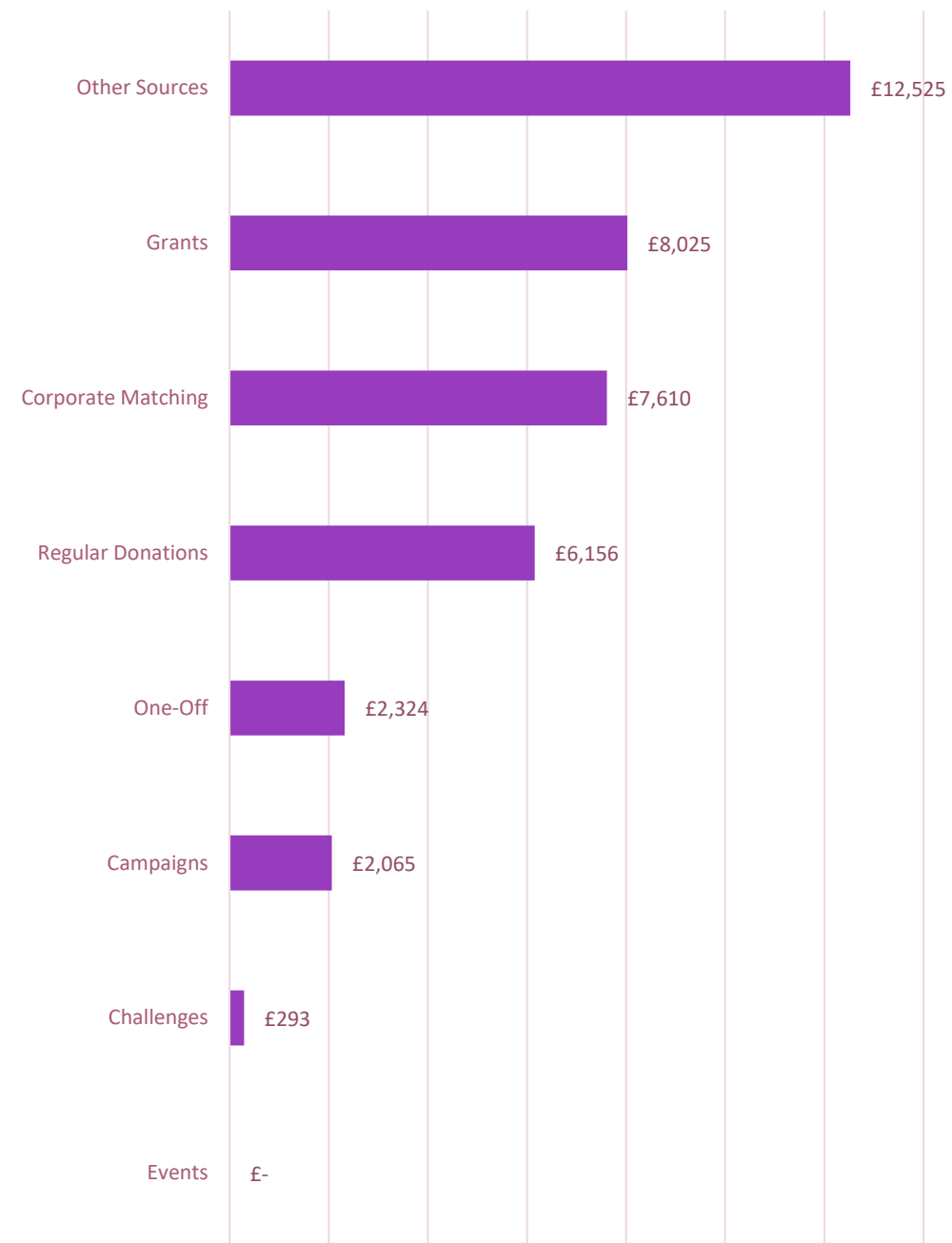
2023 Initiatives



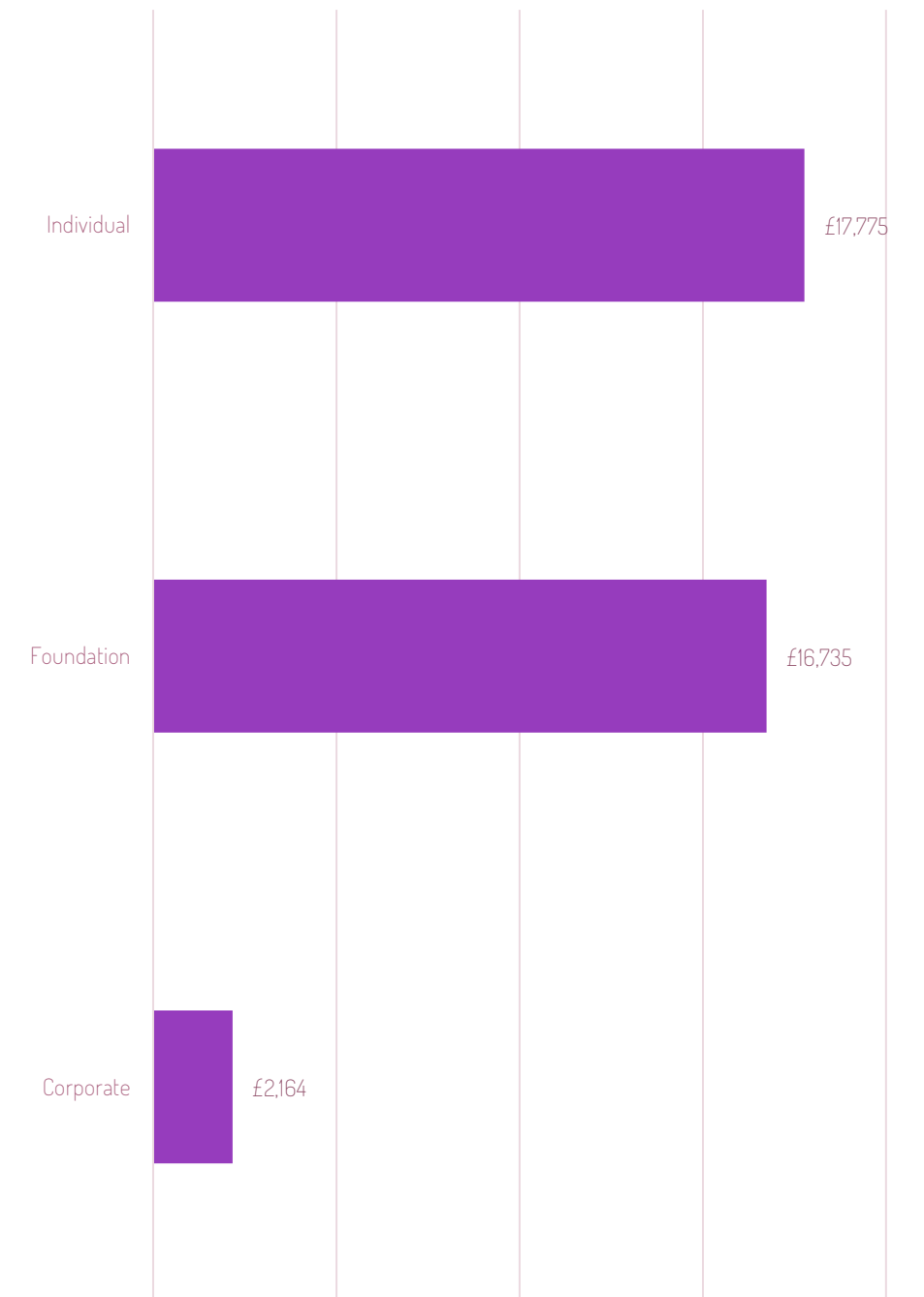
2023 Fundraising Overview



Funds Raised by Channel



Funds Raised by Type of Donour





2023 Fundraising Analysis

- In 2023, funds raised of £38 997 reflect a sharp decline year on year, on the back of a reduction in the fundraising activities of the charity
- The largest source of fundraising was through Grants, with a multi-annual grant from MCBT being renewed with a focus on Pre-School and After-School activities. The decline in funding in this area reflected the expected termination of the Egmont Trust grant, who have expressed a preference for funding local players
- Peer 2 Peer fundraising continues to represent a meaningful source of funds for the Charity (21%), driven by a combination of the Royal Parks Half Marathon, the Madrid Marathon and Birthday Celebrations from friends of the charity
- Corporate matching continues to be a significant source of funding, mostly driven by private donors and matching for fundraising events,
- ALG continues to have a solid base of regular donors and expects to continue to strengthen this area as a key source of fundraising
 - Given data restrictions, there are a number of donations from anonymous donors in 2023, which makes it challenging for ALG to engage with these donors and seek a regular donation
- In 2023, ALG launched successful campaigns for Pre-Schools, as well as a year-end Appeal for School Feeding

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Financial Summary

YoY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



KEY FINANCIAL METRICS

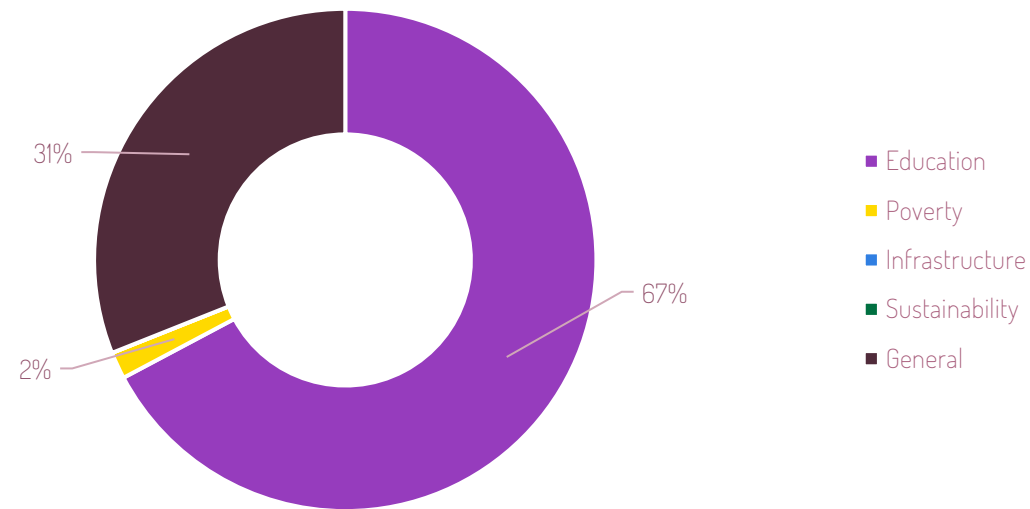
	2021	2022	2023
Sources of Funds	£89 336	£89 556	£38 997
Project Costs	£39 825	£55 255	£71 588
Fundraising & Admin	£954	£1 872	£653
Total Expenditure	£40 779	£57 128	£72 241
Net Balance	£48 557	£32 428	£(33 244)
% Funds Disbursed	45%	62%	184%
Cost Income Ratio	1,1%	2,1%	1.7%

- ALG raised an average £83 968 for its charitable activities over the last 5 years. 2020 was a higher year in light of the emergency funds attracted in the pandemic
- In 2023, the Charity registered a sharp decline in its annual funds raised on the back of a reduction of fundraising activities and a termination of a multi-year grant
 - Around 67% of these funds were focused on educational projects and 31% were unrestricted funds.
- Recognizing strong reserves, the Trustees have decided to use accumulated reserves to face ongoing project needs despite lower financing results, as was anticipated at the end of 2022, thereby increasing the % of funds disbursed to >100%
 - The historical conservative stance adopted by the trustees allowed for the disbursements to be 30% higher YoY despite a less active fundraising
- The Trustees keep a close focus on the cost-to-income ratio, targeted at under 10%. In 2022, this was very comfortably achieved with Admin Costs at 1.7% of funds raised and at 0.9%% of funds applied over the year

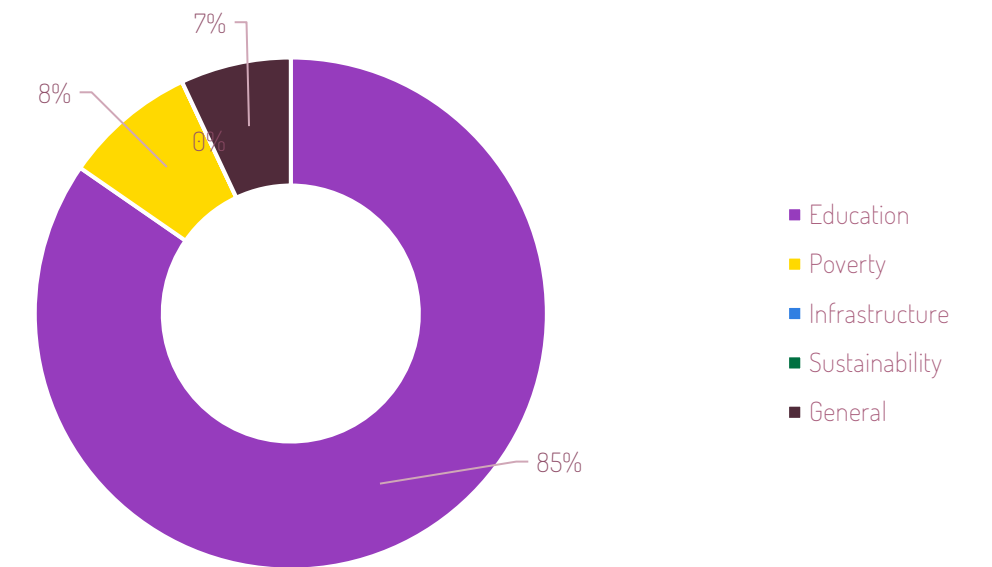
Funds Financial Review

ALG dedicates its charitable activities to i) the advancement of education, ii) the relief of poverty and iii) the advancement of health and prevention of disease. In 2023 the area of Education was a strong recipient of funds raised (67%) and of funds disbursed to the ground (85%)

FUNDS RECEIVED



FUNDS DISBURSED

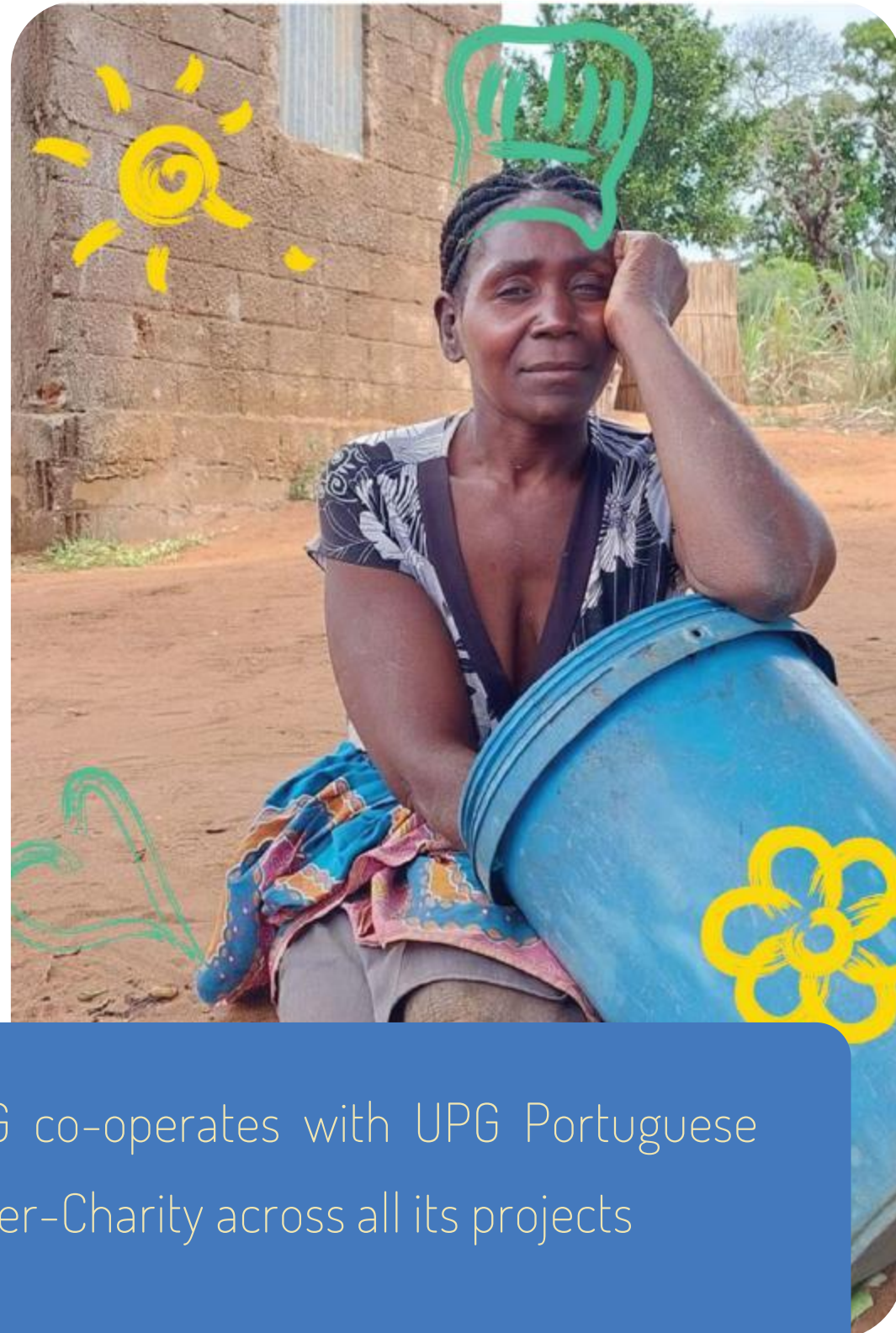


Funds raised

- The weight of General Funds remains sizeable at 31% (£12'102) and provides the organization much needed flexibility in the utilisation of funds
- The team launched new efforts for fundraising for the SLM and SVP School Feeding programs, the target of most of its Peer2Peer fundraising in 2023, as well as the Year-End Appeal
- Funding for Pre-Schools continues to be a stable area in ALG thanks to a long-standing partnership with The Mac Bevan Charitable Trust

Applied Funds

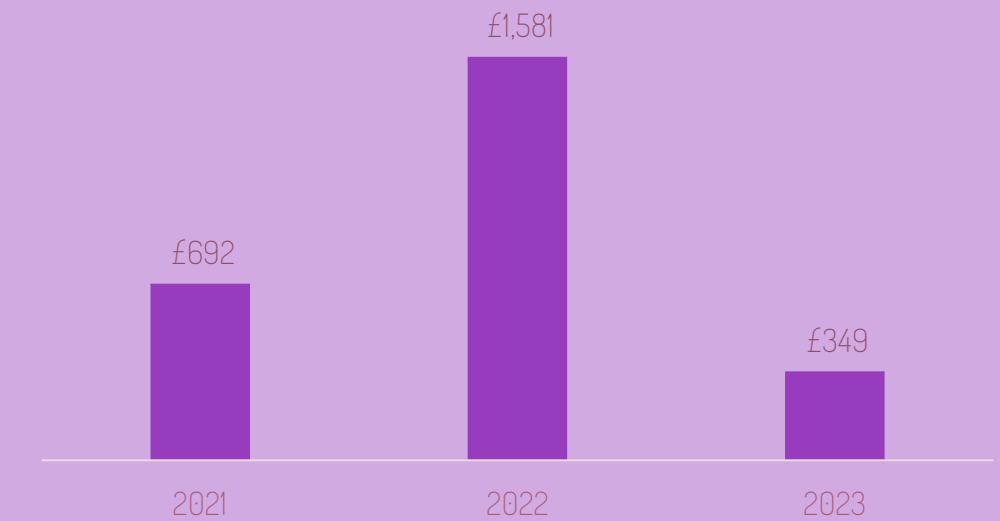
- An amount of £71'588 was disbursed in 2023 to be applied directly in projects in Mozambique. This represents a continued increase in disbursements post the lower years of 2021 and 2022
- In 2023, the Trustees decided to repeat the disbursement from the General Fund to be applied towards In-Country Costs.
- The ratio of applied to raised funds increased as expected, in light of the amount of reserves accumulated



ALG co-operates with UPG Portuguese sister-Charity across all its projects

Fundraising Costs

- Fundraising costs are mostly related to the fees for fundraising websites such as Justgiving, Benevity and Paypal
- In 2023, there were no costs registered relating to the RPHM 2023 Half Marathon, which skews the fundraising numbers down



Admin Costs

- ALG has very limited admin costs as it employs no staff and it has no physical headquarters
- ALG has contributed to in-country General Costs in 2023. The Trustees acknowledge that its low-cost structure in the UK can only secure an efficient and impactful application of funds through the use of both HQ Staff in Lisbon and In-Country Staff in Mozambique



Accounting Policies

- The ALG Accounts are reported on a standalone basis and based on receipts and payments accounting.
- The ALG Management Accounts include project expenses inclusive of the projects co-founded with UPG
- Project costs shown throughout the document refer to the local project expenses, which may or not be the same as the disbursements made to the ground. When an excess or deficit remains, it is carried over to the next year of the project under ALG Management Accounts.
- The Charity has reviewed its Financial Controls Policy in 2023, which is available for consultation.





Final Notes

- ALG is available for any clarifications regarding this report.
- ALG is available to facilitate visits to projects and beneficiaries by relevant official entities.

On behalf of the Trustees

Jonathan Burnett

Highlights

- ALG continues to work towards its mission of improving the living conditions of underprivileged children and their families in needy rural communities in southern Mozambique.
- The school feeding program for 2400 children emphasizes the importance of education that A Little Gesture believes is key for school attendance and retention
- At the end of 2023, the sister-charity Um Pequeno Gesto went through significant staff changes and is restructuring to allow it to better operate and pursue its core objectives, in partnership with A Little Gesture UK



A Little Gesture: SDG

The projects of A Little Gesture align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, serving as fundamental pillars of a balanced society that generates employment and wealth while respecting and advocating for human rights.



GLOSSARY

A

ALG – A Little Gesture

C

CC – Community Centre
CCUPG – Crescer com a UPG

E

EA – Escolinha do André
EFI – Pre-school Escolinha Flor da Infância
ESC – Pre-school Escolinha de Santa Catarina

F

FX – Foreign Exchange
FY – Fiscal Year
GBP – British Pound

G

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

H

HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ – Headquarters

I

IFPELAC – Alberto Cassimo Laboral Studies and Professional Education Institute
IS – Infra-structure

K

KPI – Key Performance Indicators

L

LY – Last Year

M

MZN – Mozambican Metical

R

RPHM – Royal Parks Half Marathon

S

SLM – Santa Luísa de Marillac School
SVP – São Vicente de Paulo School

U

UPG – Um Pequeno Gesto

Y

Y-O-Y – Year-over-Year

Charity no. 1141990

A Little Gesture UK

Printed: 14/10/2024

Year to December 2023
All fund codes consolidated

	<u>Turnover year to date</u>	<u>Turnover last year to date</u>
Voluntary Receipts	38,997.48	906,334.77
Receipts from Charitable Activities	0.00	1.00
Receipts from Investments	0.00	0.00
Voluntary Income Costs	0.00	0.00
Fundraising Costs	(348.70)	(48,115.89)
Charitable Activities Costs	(71,588.00)	(673,366.56)
Governance Costs	(304.50)	(3,451.25)
Other Costs	0.00	0.00
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	-----	-----
Net receipts/payments	(33,243.72)	181,402.07
Cash funds start of year	224,090.42	191,662.19
Cash funds end of period	190,846.70	224,090.42

Charity no. 1141990

A Little Gesture UK

All fund codes consolidated

Printed: 14/10/2024

Month = December 2023

All fund codes consolidated

	<u>Value</u>	
Cash Funds		
B6100 Bank current account	0.00	
B6101 Barclays Bank Account	188,821.80	
B6102 Paypal Account	4.24	
B6103 Mydonate Account	0.00	
B6104 Izettle	0.00	
B6105 VirginMoney Account	0.00	
B6106 DoitForCharity Account	0.00	
B6107 Barclays Bank USD Account	0.00	
B6108 JustGiving Account	2,020.66	
B6200 Deposit account	0.00	
B6300 Petty cash	0.00	

		190,846.70

Net assets/liabilities		190,846.70



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

A Little Gesture a Great Help

On accounts for the year
ended

31-Dec-2023

Charity no
(if any)

1141990

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2023**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 30.10.2024

Name:

Pedro Santos Reis

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

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Address:

Flat 5, 1 Gloucester Street
SW1vDB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None -----