



Brick by Brick
Building Healthy Communities





FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

2021 was an exciting year for our work characterised by steady growth of our organization despite the challenges posed by serial Covid lockdowns.

Over the past year we focused on consolidating our programming around reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services. All projects are now nested within the core Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) Program reflecting an integrated life-course approach. BAMA projects now include My Pads, which we have integrated into the Mama Ambassador Project (MAP) and increased its coverage. The Mama Rescue Project focuses on the 2nd delay (accessing skilled care at birth) and is now well integrated into core BAMA Programs. The USAID/Family Planning Activity raises community demand for modern contraceptives.

Our integrated data warehouse is now up and running, enabling us to access data analytics in real time, thereby facilitating timely decision making. Our Human Resource (HR) management has improved with the hiring of an officer to handle issues in the department as well as the commissioning of our electronic HR management system.

We have recently received government approval to change our name from Brick by Brick Uganda to Babies and Mothers Alive Foundation. This new naming re-emphasizes our RMNCAH alignment and removes all doubts and confusion that existed with the old name.

We have sustained our impacts on the quality of MNCH services but also maintained the utilization of services at a higher level as shown by the analytics in this report. The past year was not without challenges, particularly those caused by Covid lock downs, increasing our activity costs due to the need to rapidly revise program implementation strategies.

We thank our partners from the Ministry of Health and the Rakai and Kyotera District governments, with whom we have continued to work very well. We thank all of our beneficiaries for the trust they have placed in us.

We are very grateful to all health workers in the districts as well as our amazing and dedicated staff. Thank you to our funders who have continued to meet your commitments, while providing technical guidance in a number of key areas.

We specifically thank Brick by Brick Partners for their major unrestricted grant, Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency, (Mama Rescue), USAID through JSI (Mama Ambassador Project), and through Pathfinder (Family Planning Activity), MTN Uganda (Mama Rescue), ELMA Philanthropies, and the Islamic Development Bank (Cervical Cancer Prevention Project). Special thanks for our partnership with the FREQ2 Foundation in furthering sustainable access to medical oxygen.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Murokora".

Daniel Murokora MD
Executive Director
Brick by Brick Uganda

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, ... it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” So begins the novel Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. And this description seems as true today as it was when it was written over 160 years ago. Over the past two years, the entire world has struggled to address the challenges of the Covid pandemic, climate change, and the disparity of wealth and resources between global north and south, that leads to tragically poor health outcomes for millions of people. Surely, the resilience of our Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) Program has been tested. If there is a silver lining in a global pandemic it's that we are forced to examine and re-examine our program design and implementation, always adjusting to a rapidly changing environment, with a singular focus on the health of the women and children of Uganda.

Over the past year we have continued to partner with district local government and the Ministry of Health to improve the quality of maternal, reproductive and newborn health care at 48 BAMA-partnering health centers and hospitals. Since 2019, 1746 babies have been admitted to our neonatal intensive care units. In 2021, 94.4% of our sick newborns were discharged alive. Partnering with the Australian-based FreO2 Foundation, we have helped to install 18 oxygen therapy systems in health centers and hospitals throughout Uganda, including in our own Rakai and Kalisizo Hospitals. In spite of the barriers to accessing obstetric and newborn care due to Covid, we have maintained our reductions in institutional maternal and perinatal mortality at 72% and 44% respectively.

This year, thanks to the generous support of ENABEL, the Belgian Development Agency, and Spring Fertility we have launched the Mama Rescue Project. Our simple mobile phone app links women in labor to local motorcycle taxi drivers, providing lifesaving transport from remote village to health center, and emergency referral from health center to hospital through a corps of trained automobile taxi drivers. Over just seven months we transported 5150 women in labor, with an average transport time of just 15 minutes. 474 mothers with complications were referred from health centers to district hospital for emergency obstetric care. The time for referral was reduced from 3 ½ hours to 35 minutes!

The Mama Ambassador Program (MAP), which is nested within BAMA, serves almost 1000 adolescent mothers and babies through peer-support parenting groups. Thanks to support from USAID/JSIs Partnership Plus Program, we are continuing to improve early childhood development, as well as the mental health of young mothers.

Over the past year, we launched the first comprehensive screen and treat program for cervical cancer, a completely preventable disease that is a major killer of women in the developing world. Our innovative Mother-Daughter Campaigns supported the screening of 15,603 women for cervical cancer, and we vaccinated 8,342 out of school girls for HPV, the virus that causes 99% of cervical cancers.



We are grateful for the partnership of the Rakai and Kyotera District Governments, the Ugandan Ministry of Health, and the communities we serve. We give thanks to our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to serve the women and children of Uganda. None of our success would be possible without the good work of hundreds of midwives, physicians, and our Mama and Papa Ambassadors. We also thank our many donors, your investment in the work of building healthy communities in Uganda inspires us each and every day.

With gratitude,

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

Executive Director
Brick by Brick Partners



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 38 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 Mothers Alive(BAMA) Program

Improving Maternal & Child Health

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

Since 2015, the BAMA Program has led to a 72% and 44% reduction in maternal and perinatal mortality respectively, across 48 partnering health facilities. The BAMA Program mobilizes 150 Community Health Workers, known as Mama and Papa Ambassadors, to help increase demand for institutional obstetric services among hard-to-reach populations.

Our dedicated Ambassadors assist pregnant women in rural areas to develop birth preparedness/complication readiness plans — stressing the importance of delivering at a health facility under the supervision of a skilled birth attendant. Our 30 peer educators, known as Mentor Midwives, have trained 300 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 six Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialists work with healthcare administrators to improve the quality of data collection and analysis and help midwives and doctors make data driven decisions.

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 demonstrated significant improvements in infant development, improved mental health for mothers, and a greater than two-fold increase in uptake of postpartum family planning.

Since 2020, with the support of the United States Development Agency (USAID), we began a scale-up of this successful program to reach 1,000 adolescent mothers, fathers and their extended families. We expanded this program from one to two years and increased our community outreach to improve family support systems for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. In 2022, we are pleased that a Transition to Scale investment from the Grand Challenges Canada/ Saving Brains Program will support our expansion to age three.





Mama Rescue Project

Improving Access to Maternal & Child Health

In 2021, Brick by Brick Uganda, with support from Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency's Wehubit Program and the Spring Together Foundation, launched the Mama Rescue Project, a mobile phone application providing women from remote areas with free transport to health facilities via motorcycle or automobile taxi.

From June through December of 2021, we transported 5150 women in labor from village to health center, as well as providing emergency transport for 474 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 have dramatically reduced the time it takes women to move from their communities to health centers and to refer them from lower level to higher level health units, ultimately leading to a reduction in maternal and newborn complications and deaths. On average it now takes just 15 minutes to transport women from their homes to health centers.

We have also dramatically reduced emergency referral time from health center to hospital from 3 ½ hours to 35 minutes. Our solution has been developed locally in partnership with Yo! Uganda, with support from MTN, the largest mobile phone network carrier in sub-Saharan Africa.



My Pads Program

Comprehensive Reproductive Health for Adolescents

In 2021, with all schools closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were forced to scale back our three-tiered, My Pads Comprehensive Adolescent Health Program:

I- In school: We hope to engage 600 adolescent girls and boys in eight Universal Primary Schools in the Rakai District when schools re-open in 2022

II- Out-of school: we engaged 280 adolescent girls and boys in rural communities in Kyalulangira sub-county in Rakai in the My Pads comprehensive SRH program

III- Adolescent-friendly reproductive health care: in 2021, 1211 adolescents received sexual and reproductive health care services from BAMA-trained nurses at our partnering health facilities.

In 2021, 280 out-of school adolescents were enrolled in the My Pads Program, with 25% male participation. 235 parents attended our peer-support sessions, promoting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls and young women. 2400 community members attended our My Pads health outreaches. In 2021, we saw a 44% improvement in SRH knowledge as a result of our educational sessions.

As we pilot this innovative program engaging young people to promote healthy life choices, we are actively seeking funds to expand our work beyond the Rakai District.

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.

Since March 22nd, 2020 all schools in Uganda have been closed. In 2022, as we focus our mission to improving maternal, reproductive, and child health, we will phase out the School Program.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished since 2004. We have re-built nine Universal Primary Schools serving over 5000 students, providing a supportive learning environment, solar powered lighting, safe water and sanitation systems, libraries, and adequate teacher housing.

In 2021, we completed a full evaluation of the impact of our partnership with primary school communities.





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 an estimated 22 acres of forest and wetlands.

Now a completely independent and successful social enterprise, in 2022 we will transfer ownership of Brick by Brick Construction Company from Brick by Brick Partners to our senior staff and directors. In 2021, Brick by Brick Construction Company employed 46 skilled masons with fair wage jobs.



OUR STORIES

"After giving birth to my twins, I got stressed every time my babies cried. I always asked myself if other first-time mothers were having the same feeling.

Every time one baby cried, the other cried as well. I would also break down and cry because everything was overwhelming for me as a first-time mother of twins. I have learned that it is okay to always ask for help.

I thank Brick by Brick Uganda for the Mama Ambassador Program because it has taught me how to deal with my stress without affecting those around me."

Lydia Nantambi

Mama Ambassador Program Beneficiary

"My husband left me four months after I gave birth to my daughter. I was frustrated about how I was going to take care of my child.

I did not have a source of income which left me financially constrained. Ambassador Kawalya talked about being financially independent through saving the little we have during one of the peer-led sessions.

I picked an interest in the idea and started saving the transport refund that is given to us. I saved up 120,000 Uganda Shillings and used that as my start-up capital for a small business of selling chips which would generate more income for me and my child.

I thank Mama Ambassador Program for equipping us with financial knowledge so that we can better ourselves financially."

Racheal Nabweteme
Mama Ambassador Program Beneficiary





“On my last antenatal visit, a BAMA-trained midwife Patricia told me about Mama Rescue and how it works. After asking me several questions she told me the possibility of getting free transport. She gave me a voucher number to use if I had symptoms of labor and a list of Mama Rescue boda boda riders in my village and their telephone numbers.

When I started having signs of labor, I called the Mama Rescue boda boda rider at 11 pm. Mr. Abubaker arrived within a few minutes. He verified my voucher and found it valid.

We proceeded to the hospital, where we found a midwife who took me in to monitor how the baby and I were doing. Mr. Abubaker did not ask me for any money on arrival at the hospital.

Thanks to Mama Rescue for providing free transport for us to access maternal health care services.”

Margret Nante
Mama Rescue Project Beneficiary

“We are grateful for the BAMA support that has been given to us through mentorships and trainings in emergency obstetric and newborn care.

This year BAMA has supported comprehensive cervical cancer prevention through a screen-and- treat approach for women aged 25-49, linking this service with HPV immunization for girls 9-14 who are out-of-school. Thousands of women and girls have been screened and vaccinated to prevent cervical cancer.

All of the BAMA trainings have helped us provide better health care to women and children in the Districts of Rakai and Kyotera.”

Sister Bonny Mbabazi
Midwife, Kibuka HC II



“Our Mama Rescue Program, linking women in labor to motorcycle and automobile taxis, is moving forward addressing a major barrier in access to quality maternal and newborn care at our partnering health facilities.

This is especially urgent during the Covid lockdown which disproportionately impacts poor, rural families.”

Stella Nalubowa
Mama Rescue Project Coordinator



Our Impact: Babies and Mothers Alive



263

health providers trained and mentored in emergency obstetric and newborn care in 2021



36,596

people served by community health outreaches



633

Newborns admitted to our 3 NICU's in 2021, 94.4% discharged alive.

72%

Reduction in maternal deaths at partnering health facilities since 2016



95%

Accuracy in data at our partnering health facilities.



Our Impact : My Pads Program

2419

Adolescents received HIV counseling and testing since 2016



599

Adolescent boys and young men served since 2016.



3864

Adolescent girls and young women served since 2016

44%

improvement in knowledge in sexual and reproductive health



Our Impact : Mama Ambassador Program



984
Adolescent mothers
and babies served



100 faith-based,
cultural and community
leaders sensitized in
women's health and
rights.



Improved early
childhood
development
scores across 4
domains

817
adolescent
mothers
screened for
SGBV
counseling and
support



65%
of our young
mothers have
chosen to begin
a family
planning
method

Our Impact: Brick by Brick Construction Company



Over **300**
projects
completed



Fair wage jobs
for **46** skilled
masons.

Over **200,000**
people provided access
to safe, clean water.

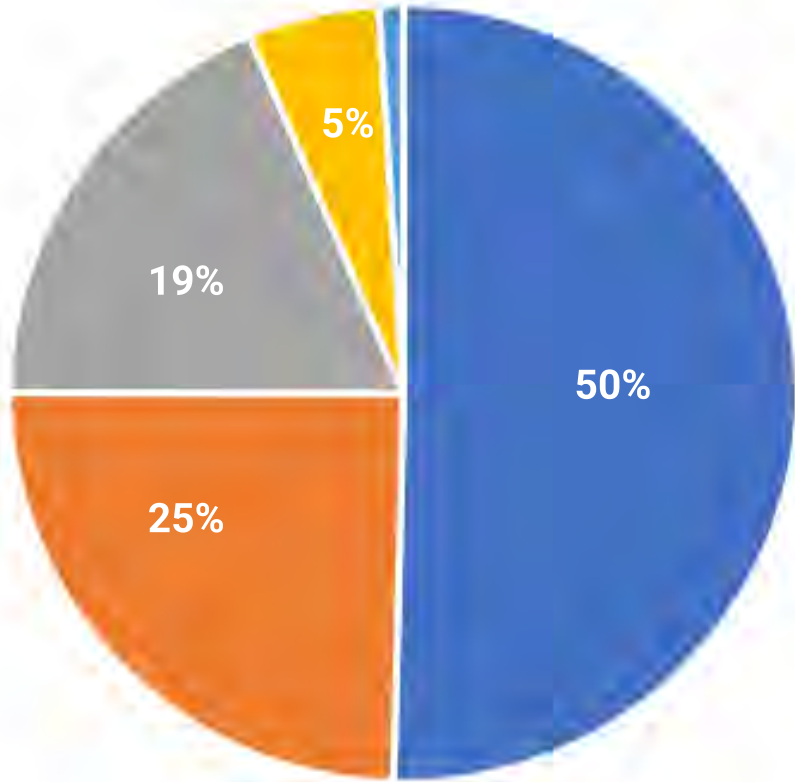


22 acres of forest
saved since 2011.



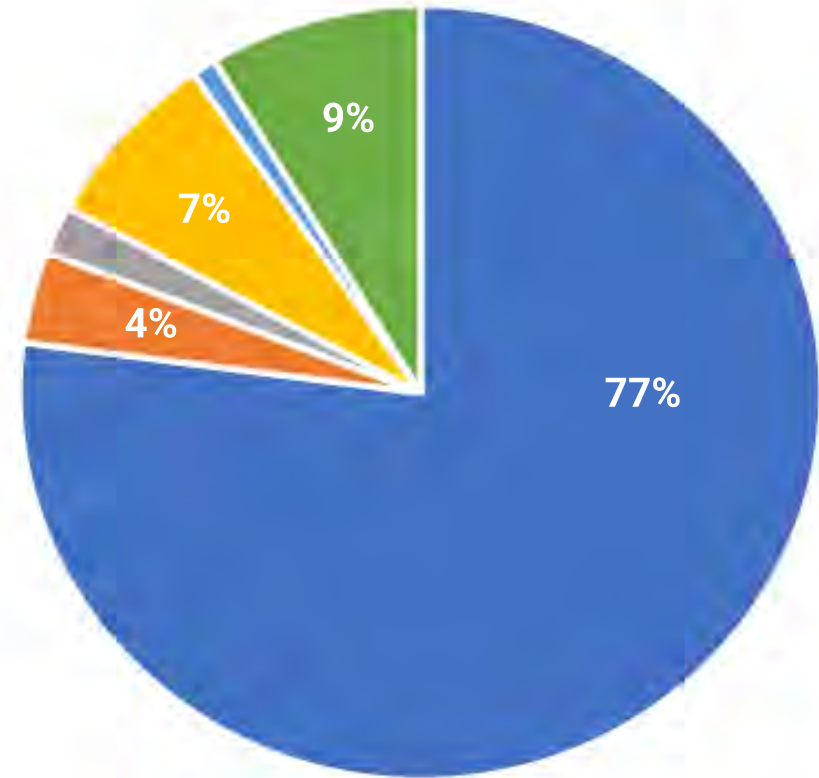
Our Finances: Combined finances for Brick by Brick Uganda and Brick by Brick Partners

2021 Income



GOVERNMENT	\$779,816	50%
FOUNDATIONS	\$380,908	25%
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$287,308	19%
EVENTS	\$83,341	5%
OTHER	\$15,593	1%
TOTAL	\$1,546,966	

2021 Expenses



BAMA	\$1,178,192	77%
MY PADS	\$58,668	4%
SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$30,782	2%
ADMIN	\$114,285	7%
FUNDRAISING	\$15,174	1%
BBB PARTNERS SALARIES	\$131,513	9%
TOTAL	\$1,528,614	

Thank You to Our Generous Partners



Ugandan Ministry of Health



Nicoll Family Fund



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Partnerships **PLUS**