

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Ne Believe



A better future is possible

# TWO

Education and training opportunities are key to success

# THREE

With opportunity everyone can succeed

# FOUR

Through our local connections, skills, and experience, we create impact



# BRINGING HOPE TODAY

Harvest Hope Africa equips, transforms, and empowers disadvantaged people in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

We relieve poverty through education and training.

# **OUR CORNERSTONE PROGRAMS ARE:**

- ♦ A primary school in a remote part of Tanzania
- Sewing and business training program in the Democratic Republic of Congo for young victims of sexual violence
- A co-operative graduate program for students to begin their own sewing business

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN OUR PROGRAMS THIS YEAR ARE:

#### In the Democratic Republic of Congo

- Ontinued sewing and business training
- ♦ Graduated our fourth intake of students
- Continued to provide a co-operative with mentorship, quality equipment and rented premises for our graduating students to start their own business
- Gifted 40 graduating students sewing machine kits to begin their own business
- Received our fifth intake of students
- Provided food and clean water to vulnerable people
- Provided emergency schooling and medical support to family members of our community

#### In Tanzania

- Provided improved salaries for teachers and administration staff
- Resourced the school with new teaching and learning materials
- Built connections with the new local government school, sharing resources, and leveraging improved professional networks
- Found a potential source of continual bore water for the community
- Supported an entrepreneurship program for vulnerable mothers of the students



PEUSE

JUK









# Ourstory

Harvest Hope Africa provides opportunities to build hope for vulnerable people. Patrick and Rebecca, founders and directors, are passionate about bringing hope, restoration, and transformation.

Having lived and worked in Africa for many years, they bring significant knowledge and experience. Now based in Australia, they established Harvest Hope Africa in 2019, to facilitate others joining the journey of providing opportunities for vulnerable people.

Born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Patrick witnessed the country's long history of conflict, political upheaval and instability growing up. As an adult, he lived and worked in multiple countries in Africa. An ardent believer in the power of individual action, Patrick looks to give people who are struggling today the belief in a better tomorrow. Patrick focused his work in 1990 –2012 on training leaders and working with charities to bring reconciliation and hope. He spent six years supporting the recovery of communities post the Rwandan Genocide. Patrick's formal training includes community development and education, and he fluently speaks many African languages.

As a child, growing up in Australia, Rebecca was inspired by the work of charities providing support, and promised herself that one day, she would enable transformative change in the lives of people who needed it in Africa. Patrick met Rebecca in Tanzania, where she lived and worked as a teacher trainer for nine years. During her time in Tanzania, Rebecca travelled to many African countries and through local connections and personal experience, developed a deep understanding of the needs of impoverished people in Africa. Rebecca's formal training is in education, with over 15 years of educational leadership experience.

In 2012, Patrick and Rebecca moved to Australia with their children. Their local African connections led to Harvest Hope Africa's areas of commitment. Donations to Harvest Hope Africa fund capacity-building initiatives. These programs enable the individual to become self-sufficient, thereby creating sustainable change for the individual and their community and enabling Harvest Hope Africa to maximise their reach and impact.



Patrick and Rebecca have been deeply moved by the encouragement, assistance and of course, donations, provided by their supporters in Australia and around the world.



In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, Harvest Hope Africa's projects are in the eastern city of **Goma**, which has faced long standing civil war. Amongst many of the innocent victims are girls and young women. Their opportunities to access education have been affected and tragically, the experience of sexual violence has been far too common. This often leaves girls and young women alone and desperate. Alongside a locally registered charity, Harvest Hope Africa has invested in training-based programs to provide a better future for these young women and their babies.

Harvest Hope Africa also works in an isolated Masai area of Tanzania near Arusha, where accessing quality education nearby is not possible. The families of the school live in traditional housing in the Longido district, with access to employment, health services and clean water, difficult. The school was founded with a vision to empower the community and improve quality of life by making education accessible.







Patrick Lubilanji

# HOW WE WORK

Our management team includes highly respected professionals with experience in international development, violence redress, human rights, finance, project management, medicine and education.

We work co-operatively with locally registered organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania, to ensure transparency and accountability, drawing on strong local knowledge and expertise in our partnership and decision-making procedures.

Our programs director and project managers on the ground in Africa, bring decades of leadership experience. Our Africa programs director, Gentil Kasongo, has a master's degree in human rights, a law degree and many years' experience in the Great Lakes Region as a consultant in issues of justice and human rights. Gentil works closely with Patrick to supervise our two project managers; Daniel Kalimbiro, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Amani Rukyaa, in Tanzania. Gentil and Patrick work directly with the project managers to design projects, give clear directions regarding expenditure of finances and operational guidance. Rebecca and our finance team works with Patrick and the project managers to ensure due diligence is followed, as well as Rebecca providing educational and leadership advice.

Gentil Kasongo Programs Director

Rebecca Lubilanji

Daniel Kalimbiro Project Manager, DRC

Amani Rukyaa Project Manager, Tanzania



Harvest Hope Africa has Deductible Gift Receipt status, granted by the Australian Taxation Office, making donations over \$2 tax deductible.

## **STRUCTURE**

Harvest Hope Africa is Company Limited by Guarantee, with a constitution that defines the organisation's mission, purposes, and powers.

Harvest Hope Africa is registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) as a Public Benevolent Institution and is accountable to the ACNC's External Conduct Standards. The standards cover:

- Activities and control of resources (including funds)
- Annual review of overseas activities and record keeping
- Anti-fraud and anti-corruption
- Protection of vulnerable individuals

Harvest Hope Africa is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. The board is comprised of 5 members, each with their own international aid experience and complementary professional skills.



Pascar Chitsaka Board Chair



Denis Zimba Treasurer



Patrick Lubilanji Director



Rebecca Lubilanji Secretary, Public Officer



Eugene Tshibangu Director



Jame

### RESPECT

We understand and value the culture of the people we work with.

We listen and this informs our decisions. We communicate respectfully and with consideration.

### INTEGRITY

We speak truthfully and work to do the best we can.

We are hardworking and prioritise accountability and transparency. We respect confidential information.

# **COMPASSION**

We work together to achieve greater impact for the vulnerable communities we partner with.

We value community and work to deepen relationships in Australia and in the field. We acknowledge we are better together.

# CONNECTION

We are passionate and committed to empowering vulnerable communities.

We strive to understand the challenge our participants face and how we can help them best. We recognise the value and potential our participants hold and work to equip them.



Our Board is thrilled with the impact and

2024, and confident

this has placed us

well to continue to

provide hope.

growth in 2023-



**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR** 

As I complete my fifth year of involvement with Harvest Hope Africa, I am inspired by the level of impact we have made as a grassroots charity. This fiscal year, we have withstood global economic challenges, continuing to deliver our programs and make significant, difference in the lives of many.

Harvest Hope Africa is a young organization with a vision to bring hope, restoration and transformation to vulnerable women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. As shown in our impact figures in this report, we are making this vision a reality and demonstrating we can make a transformative difference through our work.

I acknowledge our Board for their support, hard work, and determination to carry out the vision. I particularly thank our founders, Patrick and Rebecca Lubilanji, who work tirelessly with our partners in Australia and in Africa. They carry the mantle of CEO and COO with commitment and dedication, demonstrating to our entire team our values of respect, integrity, compassion, and connection as we work to achieve our mission of equipping and empowering vulnerable women and children through education and training.

I extend my thanks to our donors this fiscal year. Your generous commitment to our work makes it possible. Together with our management team and volunteers you have facilitated bringing hope, restoration, and transformation in the lives of the women and children we help. The Board is thrilled with the impact and growth in 2023-2024, and confident this has placed us well to continue to provide hope and a real difference in the lives of the people we help in the coming year.

Pascar Chitsaka Board Chair





# BRINGING HOPE, RESTORATION, & TRANSFORMATION

# **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**

As I reflect on celebrating our 5th birthday in May this year, I am astounded by what we have achieved in such a brief time. Together, in five short years, we have raised over \$280,000 to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Last year I had the privilege of travelling to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania to visit our projects firsthand. To say I was thrilled with the work of our team on the ground and the commitment of our participants is an understatement. The visit gave us the opportunity to assess our impact and inform our future strategic decisions to continually improve our work. What was clear beyond anything else was we certainly have the perfect dream team to grow our impact.

I am delighted to report that our operations over 2023-2024 have been extremely successful. Our programs have proven to be effective in equipping and empowering displaced, abused, and vulnerable people.

This year we have continued to see growth in impact, and I thank our team on the ground in Africa, both our employees and volunteers, and our community here in Australia for making this possible.

> In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 50 students engaged in our sewing training program, learning the skills of tailoring, and running a small business. 45 of the participants recently sat the government national exams to gain their formal vocation certification. They are currently on work placements to gain further experience in running their own sewing business and will soon graduate. I am proud to share that we have made it a tradition for our students to receive a sewing machine kit as a graduation gift to support them in their



final steps to setting up their business and transitioning to independence. I congratulate each student for the immense courage demonstrated throughout their study. They are now in a position to be financially independent and provide for their young families.

> Our work in Goma, Congo has been complicated by the civil war and recent increased unrest in the broader Goma area, bringing a large influx of vulnerable people into the city. This, alongside our strong reputation has resulted in our waitlists to enter our program becoming significantly longer.

We have maximised our abilities with our current funding and are working to increase our donations so we can meet this growing need and expand, offering alternative vocational training.

In Tanzania we focused our efforts on supporting an isolated primary school, providing education for 55 vulnerable children in Masailand. We provided salaries, access to clean water on site, food, and teaching and learning resources.

I thank our team of volunteers in Africa who work tirelessly to ensure our projects are implemented. In particular, I would like to acknowledge our program managers for their generosity of heart and service as they lead the team with dedication and commitment to our vision.

Lastly, I would like to thank our donor community in Australia. We recognise it has been a challenging year for many families, and your unwavering financial partnership has made the work possible. This work continues because of your partnership. Thank you for standing with us and being part of making a difference. Lives are being transformed because of you.

Harvest Hope Africa is a grassroots charity with a significant future. I am excited about implementing our next 12 month strategic plan, increasing our impact and continuing to bring hope, restoration, and transformation into the coming year.

Patrick Lubilanji CEO



# BRINGING





This year we celebrated 5 years of impact.



# **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

We have seen continued impact through our projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

Thank you all for being a part of this.

**YOUNG LADIES GIFTED** 

**A SEWING MACHINE** 

# 200

#### YOUNG LADIES GAINED SEWING TRAINING





100



**SPONSORED** 

UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS













# ON THE GROUND

As we entered the training centre, the sound of ululation filling the air and smiles greeting us, brought immeasurable joy. Hearing the students gratitude, we felt incredibly proud of all our team has accomplished. Having waited since the first Covid breakout to be on site, it was confirmed at that point, we were in for a great few days.

We sat with students in the sewing training program as they spoke of the transformation and emotional healing they were experiencing by participating in our programs.

Heading to the Co-operative, we met students who had graduated over the last few years; the joy and confidence they exuded was palpable. It was with great pleasure we promptly ordered a few shirts for Patrick.

Aware of the conflict around Goma, we visited an active volcano and displaced camp nearby. This was almost too hard to absorb, given the reason our projects exist. Words will never explain.

Before we knew it, it was graduation day. We sat in the ceremony, looking at a room full of young women and their families whose lives have been changed forever because of our programs. We heard stories that made us cry and walked away with more determination than ever to continue the great work.

We promptly flew to Tanzania, quickly shifting our minds to an incredibly remote area with dust and lack of water most have never experienced. It was a lot of fun meeting the children at the primary school and seeing the unique opportunities we provide them.

In both locations we were incredibly proud of what our teams have achieved, their commitment to the work and the impact we are making. The trip brought resolute determination to keep pushing forward and to continue to be a part of making a difference.



Before learning to sew I had no hope. Now I know my children will be okay.

**NEEMA** Student



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

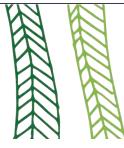
# **SEWING TRAINING PROGRAM, GOMA**

This year our fifth intake of students participated in our sewing training program. Our students; teenage girls with a background of sexual violence and consequential babies, have displayed great courage as they progressed through our sewing training program. This did not come without its struggles. These young women continue to battle trauma and look after their babies, when they themselves are still maturing. 50 young women managed to learn a new trade and eventually, pass their exams. Their commitment and resilience mean they will soon graduate, celebrating a year of learning and increased independence.

Graduating students are invited to join our co-operative program. This facility is especially helpful for students who live in and around Goma, where they can access continued mentorship, professional feedback, quality equipment and a safe place to work as they build their business.

"People in my community barely believe I can make these clothes. I can make all sorts of outfits and even school uniforms. I am so proud of myself."

**CO-OPERATIVE MEMBER** 



If it wasn't for your kindness we wouldn't eat during the day. This meal means I don't spend the whole day hungry anymore. I can concentrate on learning and feed my baby. We a



### We acknowledge the importance of our food program.

STUDENT



Without it, our students were struggling to feed themselves, and as a result struggling to breastfeed their babies. Our food program enables our students to come together at lunch time to eat a nutritious meal. This improves student attendance, health, focus, and learning.

"There is so much need here, but we are making a remarkable impact. The girls come to us desperate, and they leave completely transformed, believing in themselves, confident and equipped for their future. It is a privilege to be a part of this great work."

**DANIEL KALIMBIRO** Project Manager





My friend told me to never talk about what happened. Here I learned I could receive psychological help so I could process what I suffered. I can see a better future now."

**SAFINA** Student



# **PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY**

#### To support our students' wellbeing development, we offer psychological therapy.

Students come with significant background trauma. Our psychologist, Norbert, comes once a week and is available to students who would like to have 1:1 sessions. We have prioritised this service for the younger students and those who have suffered more complex trauma.

Norbert also runs group sessions for the students focusing on common wellbeing issues. Host families are invited to be involved in special sessions so they can learn how to be of greater support to our students in their home and community environment.

"I came to Goma from Bwreremana having lost my family during the conflict. I had no one to help me until I found out about this training centre. I was accepted and not only did I learn to sew, I got the psychological help I needed to start the next season of my life. It is a miracle."

**GRADUATING STUDENT** 



#### HIGHLIGHTS: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



We have several students highlighted with leadership potential whom we have sponsored to attend university. We are so proud of their determination and success to date.





# ELIZABETH

### Elizabeth completed her degree in fashion last year, graduating with distinctions.

She showed particular talent in our first intake of students and our trainers encouraged us to offer her a university placement. Elizabeth entered the program because she came from an extremely poor family that could not afford to send her to school. Elizabeth is now a leader at our co-operative, supporting her peers and earning a living. Patrick and Rebecca visited Elizabeth while in Goma and were overwhelmed with the joy and confidence she exuded, and they learned she could even tailor a suit jacket. What a success story.

# 'KATERINE'

### Katerine (pseudonym) has been with us for many years.

We originally met her as an 11 year old orphan with aids who wound up at the rape crisis centre. Patrick and Rebecca agreed to find her a host family and send her back to school. After many years of support and medical intervention, Katerine is well and we are making her dream of studying at university come true. Katherine is about to start her second year of Computer Engineering. While in Congo, Patrick and Rebecca visited Katerine at her host's home. They report it was an incredibly joyful experience, where they got to witness the fruits of 7 years of investment into a life transformed for Katerine.



### OUR FOCUS OF SUPPORT HAS BEEN TO:



Provide consistent salaries for teachers and support staff



# Provide basic teaching and learning resources



Introduce a food program for the students



Provide access to clean water

# TANZANIA

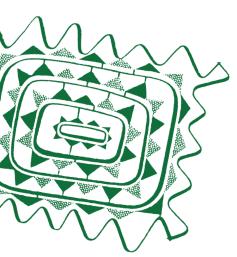
# **EBENEZA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We partner with a remote Primary School in the Longido region of Tanzania. The families are from the Masai tribe, living in traditional housing in nearby villages. The school takes students in their first year of schooling and has 55 students.

The cost of living continues to grow in Tanzania and so again, this fiscal year we have increased teacher wages. Amani Rukiyaa, our project manager in Tanzania has completed his first year with us, putting into place new, effective operational systems. Amani is an accountant with considerable experience in working with international charities based in Tanzania. His structured approach to leading places the school in a good position for future growth.

Our community has faced a lot of challenges this year with the rising cost of living. Our families struggle significantly, but because of our school, the children will have a better future. It is a long-term investment and a lot of work, but it is worth it.

**AMANI RUKYAA,** TANZANIAN PROJECT MANAGER



# **FOOD PROGRAM**

A key strategy to provide an environment for the students to be happy and learn well is our food program. The results of this program have been improved health, wellbeing and learning of both students and staff. Over the year, we have observed students' nutrition improve, and joy build. This is an essential building block to learning.

"The families of our students don't have food. Nothing grows out there. The children may have an extremely basic meal in the evening of ugali, which is ground maize, if they are lucky. The land is so barren and any water that is there is filthy.

The food program at the primary school is an enormous blessing to the students. It provides essential nutrition to help them grow and learn well."

**REBECCA LUBILANJI** 



# **A FUTURE WITH FRESH WATER**

After our founders, Patrick and Rebecca Lubilanji visited the school last year, they agreed to help the community research potential sources of water. We have been communicating with government officials, the community, and bore water specialists to see what options are available.

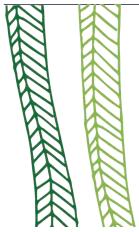
The exciting news is there could be water a few hundred metres underground, right on our school site. Our next step is to raise \$25,000 to start drilling.



### ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

We provide an Entrepreneurship Training Program to support vulnerable mothers of the school community who have been abandoned or widowed. The women learn basic business and entrepreneurship skills as well as specific skills, including soap making. The women also learn about issues of health, including hygiene. This is a small program with significant potential to make an enormous impact on the lives of many more families in need.

#### HIGHLIGHTS: AUSTRALIA



The work of Harvest Hope Africa is significant, and it is my privilege to give financially each year to help make that work possible.

ALICE, DONOR



# AUSTRALIA

# We are so thankful for our community, who provide financial donations and volunteer their time and skills.

Without this commitment, we would not have achieved the reported impact in the last 12 months. We recognise the global financial situation has put pressure on many families and want to communicate our heartfelt thanks for your financial giving.

We welcome our new donors this fiscal year. It is wonderful to have you join our community and we thank you for being a part of our important work.

"I love buying a graduating sewing machine kit each year. It is something I save for and look forward to giving, it is one small thing I can do to help make a difference."

#### PETER, DONOR

It has also been a blessing for some one-time donors to decide to give regularly. This allows us to budget well and plan for improved programs.





# GREENROOM

advise. create. beyond.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank our corporate sponsor,

### **Greenroom Strategic**

for their continued partnership with our work. Your commitment and generosity in finances facilitates our success.

"We have been moved by the determination and efficacy of Harvest Hope Africa (HHA) for several years now. Working face to face with those in great need in Goma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Longido, an isolated Massai area of Tanzania, HHA has stalwartly provided skills and resources to improve and transform lives.

BEN, CEO AND FOUNDER OF GREENROOM STRATEGIC

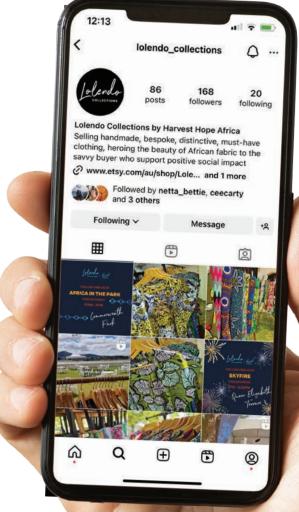
# **LOLENDO COLLECTIONS**

Lolendo Collections is our social enterprise with a vision to make both local and global impact by promoting culture for an equitable world.

We promote culture locally through our African inspired, handmade, quality, and unique products made available for our local community to purchase and wear with pride, being a part of the impact of our work. The sale of these items over our summer period were significant, and is providing a revenue stream to support the work of Harvest Hope Africa.

olend LECTIONS

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR INSTAGRAM!



HARVEST HOPE Annual Report 2024

# GROWINGA OMMUMU OF TRANSFORMED LIVES

CENSORED



Continue the food program



Continue to train students



More playground equipment



Seek funding for bore water



Updating the kitchen

# THE YEAR AHEAD

### IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The success and value of our programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo have proven apparent. Our priority in the year ahead will be to:

- Provide psychological therapy for each intake of students
- Graduate our fifth cohort of students
- Train students from the sixth intake
- Gift sewing machine kits to all graduating students
- Ontinue the food program throughout the course
- Continue to provide mentoring and resources to the participants of the sewing co-operative
- Continue to support High School sponsored students who are too young to enter our sewing training
- Continue to support our university sponsored students who have demonstrated leadership potential
- Ontinue strategic planning so we can offer a hospitality course in Goma

### **IN TANZANIA**

The Primary School in Tanzania has many opportunities. Our priority will be to:

- Increase wages for staff
- Ontinue to improve the teaching and learning resources
- Ontinue the food program for students
- Add further playground equipment
- Seek funding for the bore water digging and building project
- > Focus on other capital building projects, including updating the kitchen

# MAKE EVERY DONATION COUNT



We remain continually thankful to our community of financial supporters. Your donations have allowed us to take significant steps forward to transform the lives of those we help.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

During a year of worldwide rise of cost of living challenges, our team on the ground in Africa have done an extraordinary job of making every dollar count. Despite the number of people in need increasing in tandem with experiencing a revenue downturn, we have maintained financial support for our major programs and have encouraging impact stories to match this work.

We remain continually thankful to our community of financial supporters. Whether you are one of our individual donors, a community group partner, or one of our corporate partners, we are acutely aware our work is only possible because of your financial commitment to our work. Your donations have allowed us to take significant steps forward to transform the lives of those we help.

This fiscal year, our work in Australia has been completed solely by volunteers, ensuring our ongoing administrative costs are kept to a minimum. In Africa we have a core team of employees and many more volunteers that give generously of their time to make our programs possible.

To our committed donors, on behalf of our board and all the vulnerable people we help, I express our gratitude. Thank you for investing in our vision to bring hope and restoration through equipping, transforming and empowering vulnerable people. Your donations are making this vision a reality.

Denis Zimba Treasurer

Donating regularly is something we can do to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. We've made giving to your work a priority, because it is a way we can be involved in something bigger than ourselves. This is incredibly rewarding.



DONOR



Joining our social media platforms



Signing up to receive our regular news



Donating financially; regularly or as a once off



Becoming a corporate partner



Donate your time by volunteering at fundraising events



Volunteering professional expertise



Invite us to come and speak at your community group



Leave a gift in your will



# HOWYDU CAN

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