



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends, Partners, Mentors, and Colleagues,

I'm thrilled to share ABSF's 2023 Annual Report with you! Reflecting on the past year, I am overwhelmed with pride at the incredible work accomplished by our 32 community-based grantee partners. Our grantmaking focus remains on addressing the complex issues faced by girls, women, and people with disabilities in East Africa and Central America. Through a holistic approach, we support education, leadership, life-skills, entrepreneurship, vocational training, and essential services for people with disabilities to live with dignity.

In 2023, we continued to refine our mission and values-aligned, impact-first endowment, prioritizing six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we progress with our sunset plan, we're deeply committed to ensuring sustainability and lasting impact by the time we close our doors in 2035. By channeling all of our financial resources into initiatives that reflect our mission and values, we are amplifying our core commitments to equity, inclusion, and sustainability. Working closely with our partners, we strive to create a lasting legacy that will empower and uplift communities for generations to come.

The passion and collaboration of our partners in their communities highlight the power of connection, relationships, and hands-on, community-based work. We hope you enjoy learning more about our approach, our dedicated community of partners, our mission-aligned endowment, and the remarkable grassroots organizations making a difference every day.



Thank you for your continued support and partnership.
With gratitude,
Rachael Richards
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

Mission

Advancing opportunities for women and people with physical disabilities.

ABSF partners with dynamic grassroots organizations in East Africa and Central America, championing education, leadership, life skills, entrepreneurship, and advocacy for adolescent girls, women, and people with disabilities. As a sunseting foundation with an impact-first endowment, we are dedicated to applying all our resources toward creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.



WHO WE ARE

Our Work is Rooted in the Following Values:



EQUITY

1

We believe everyone deserves respect and dignity.



EMPOWERMENT

2

We provide opportunities for people to lift themselves up.



PARTNERSHIP

3

We build deep and trusting relationships with our partners.



COLLABORATION

4

We welcome and encourage collaboration within and between our partners.



SUSTAINABILITY

5

We are committed to a sustainable future for our planet and partners.



WHO WE ARE

Impact Endowment: Sustainable Development Goals

Complementing our focus on relationships and qualitative data, we utilize a straightforward impact measurement framework for our endowment, aligned with the six [Sustainable Development Goals](#) listed below.



GRANTS

EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS

Empowering girls and women through education and leadership ignites exponential growth. ABSF's Women's Education, Leadership, and Life Skills grants champion high-quality education for adolescent girls and young women, emphasizing foundational life skills, leadership, sexual and reproductive health, and mentorship. By fostering a supportive environment, it's the partners who help unlock the full potential of future female leaders.



Partner Highlight

EMPOWERED GIRLS

[Empowered Girls \(EG\)](#), a Tanzanian NGO, aims to empower girls to thrive by providing mentorship programs in schools. They help girls develop self-awareness, life skills, and health education, empowering them to pursue their dreams confidently. EG also engages parents, communities, and boys to support girls' aspirations. In 2023, EG graduated 413 girls from their 4-year empowerment program and 51 teachers in their building a positive school culture program.

Trained:



3,105 students in menstrual health and hygiene



1,580 boys in positive masculinity and growth



2,007 girls in life skills & sexual reproductive health education



1,470 parents in positive parenting skills



1,200 youth entrepreneurs



GRANTS

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women-led businesses transform local and global communities. Women reinvest their resources in their families, communities, and countries, making the whole world a better place - for everyone. ABSF partners with organizations supporting entrepreneurship and vocational training for women.



Partner Highlight

Young Strong Mothers' Foundation



[Young Strong Mothers Foundation \(YSMF\)](#), founded by the dynamic mother-daughter duo Jackie and Rose, turns personal challenges into empowerment. They inspire, advocate, and support the rights of adolescent girls and young mothers, aiming to be a beacon of hope across mainland Tanzania. YSMF addresses health, social, educational, legal, and financial needs, dedicated to creating a brighter future for vulnerable girls, young mothers, and their children.

Partner Highlight

Girl Up Initiative Uganda

[Girl Up Initiative Uganda \(GUIU\)](#) is building a vibrant movement of girls and young women through leadership, sexual & reproductive health education, and skills development. ABSF has partnered with GUIU for years, supporting their Mazuri Design Hub, offering fashion and design training for out-of-school girls. This year, GUIU expanded to include digital literacy and mechanics apprenticeship, empowering young women with job readiness skills for male-dominated fields.

Mazuri Design Hub Impact in 2023:

- **100** girls were trained
- **98** girls graduated
- **30** girls linked to employment opportunities
- **25** girls apprenticed in mechanics
- **25** girls attained digital literacy skills



GRANTS

DISABILITY INCLUSION



ABSF partners with organizations focusing on locally sourced mobility devices, inclusive education, advocacy, and job training for people with disabilities. With over 100 million children in the developing world living with untreated disabilities, ABSF prioritizes organizations that promote employment, comprehensive care, education, and high quality mobility devices for people with disabilities.

Partner Highlight

Autonomía Libertad en Movimiento A.C.

[Autonomía Libertad en Movimiento A.C.\(ALEM\)](#) is an innovative organization in Mexico utilizing a transformation approach to disabilities. Mechanical technicians with disabilities work on mobility devices through their “Jazz My Wheelchair” clinics, which take place in communities throughout Mexico.

ALEM’s impact in 2023:

- Employed 10 people with disabilities, 5 women/5 men
- Repaired over 3,000 wheelchairs
- Educated over 3,000 PWDs and their family members on wheelchair maintenance and repair



Partner Highlight

Community Based Inclusive Development Organization

[Community Based Inclusive Development Organization \(CBIDO\)](#), located in Karagwe, Tanzania, is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and young people with disabilities. With a vision of creating an inclusive society where everyone can achieve their full potential and live with dignity, CBIDO specializes in a dynamic community-based rehabilitation model. Their innovative approach includes prevention, parent and caregiver education, personalized interventions, vocational training, savings groups, and income-generating projects, all designed to support and empower children with disabilities.



COLLABORATIONS

As a small, relationship focused foundation, ABSF is able to leverage our connections to network within our community, providing capacity building opportunities for our partners. One such example is [CREATIVE ACTION INSTITUTE \(CAI\)](#).

CREATIVE ACTION INSTITUTE

For several years, ABSF has collaborated with CAI to provide leadership and mentorship training to several ABSF partners. Within CAI, the Sauti ya Dada program is a collaboration with dozens of community-based organizations in East Africa that serve girls. Many are organizations with few or no staff and low or no budgets. In this way, CAI manifests its mission to catalyze community-driven solutions that advance gender equality and climate justice globally. This partnership exemplifies the power of collective action in creating sustainable and impactful change.



2023 Financials

Grant Allocations

In 2023 ABSF distributed \$507,650 in grants across Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Rwanda, Tanzania, USA, and Uganda.

Education, Leadership & Life Skills	\$258,050
Disability	\$96,500
Entrepreneurship	\$89,700
Discretionary	\$63,400



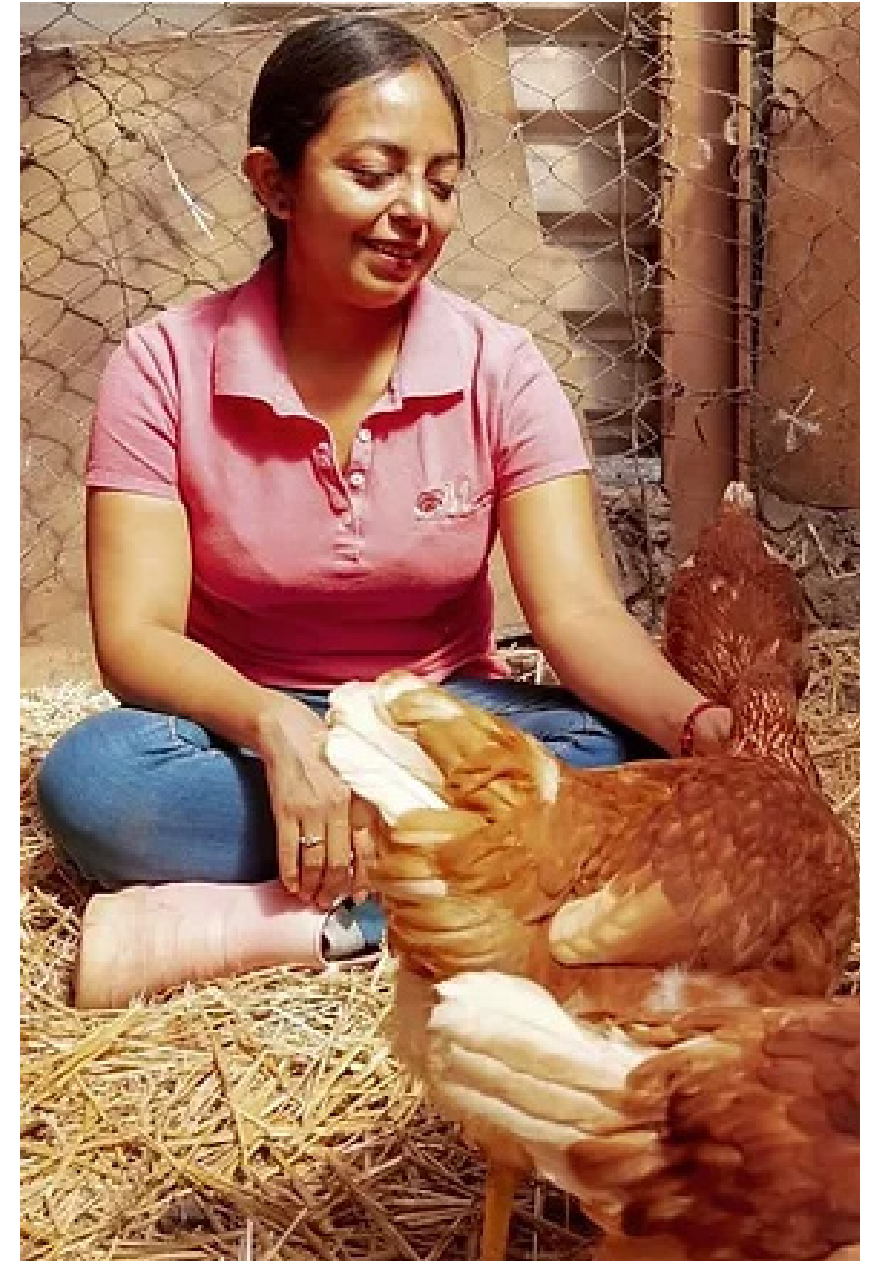
2023 Financials

Investments

ABSF believes private foundations have a moral duty to align all of their resources with their mission, thereby exponentially increasing their impact. To this end, ABSF has fully committed its endowment to mission and values-aligned impact investments complementing our charitable goals.

Investee Highlight - Grupo Murlota, Mexico

[Grupo Murlota](#) challenges corporate conglomerates by sourcing surplus eggs from rural producers through a cooperative model. Rural micro-entrepreneurs, mainly women, seniors, and people with disabilities, are provided with start-up infrastructure, market linkages, business training, and technical assistance, increasing their yields and income. This backyard production model offers convenient employment at home and encourages joining community networks, enhancing business skills and social cohesion. Today, 40,000 women are raising poultry and increasing their incomes through Grupo Murlota.



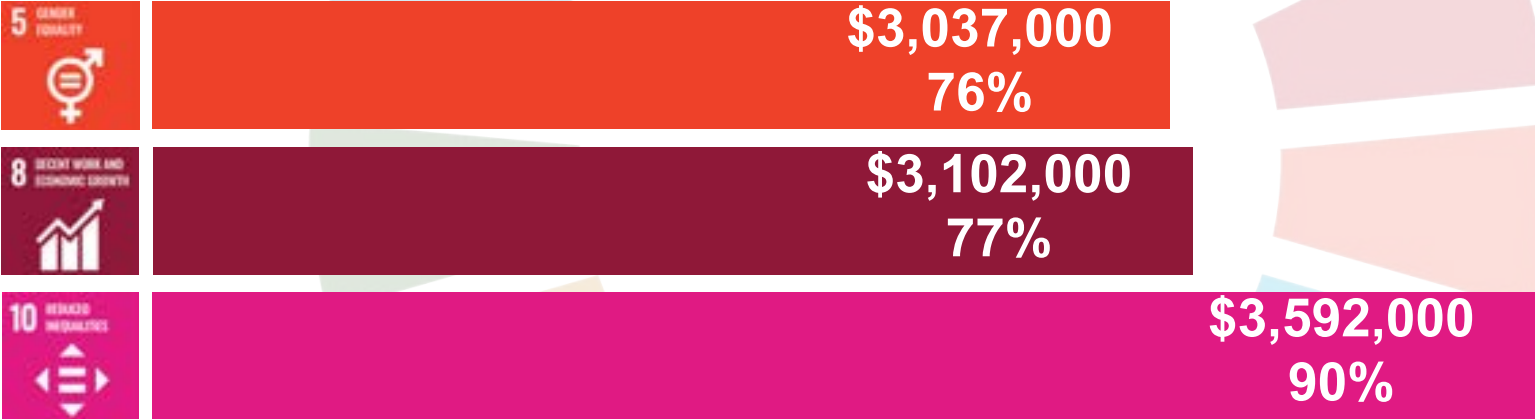
Impact Endowment: SDG Alignment

Investment Dollars Supporting

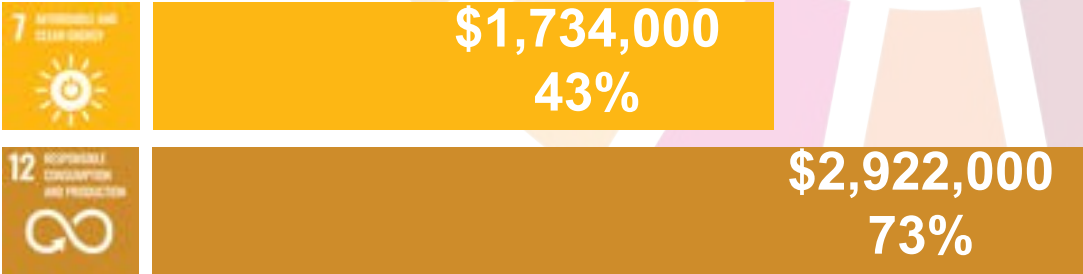
Education



Economic Opportunity



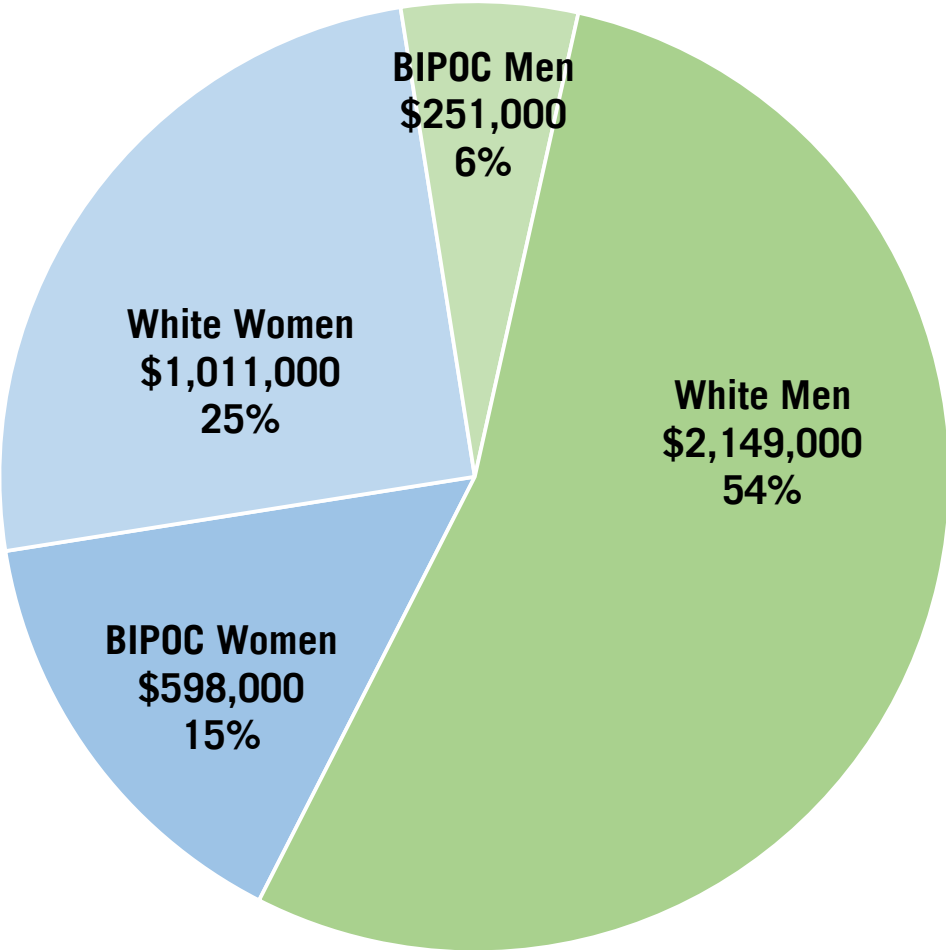
Environmental Sustainability



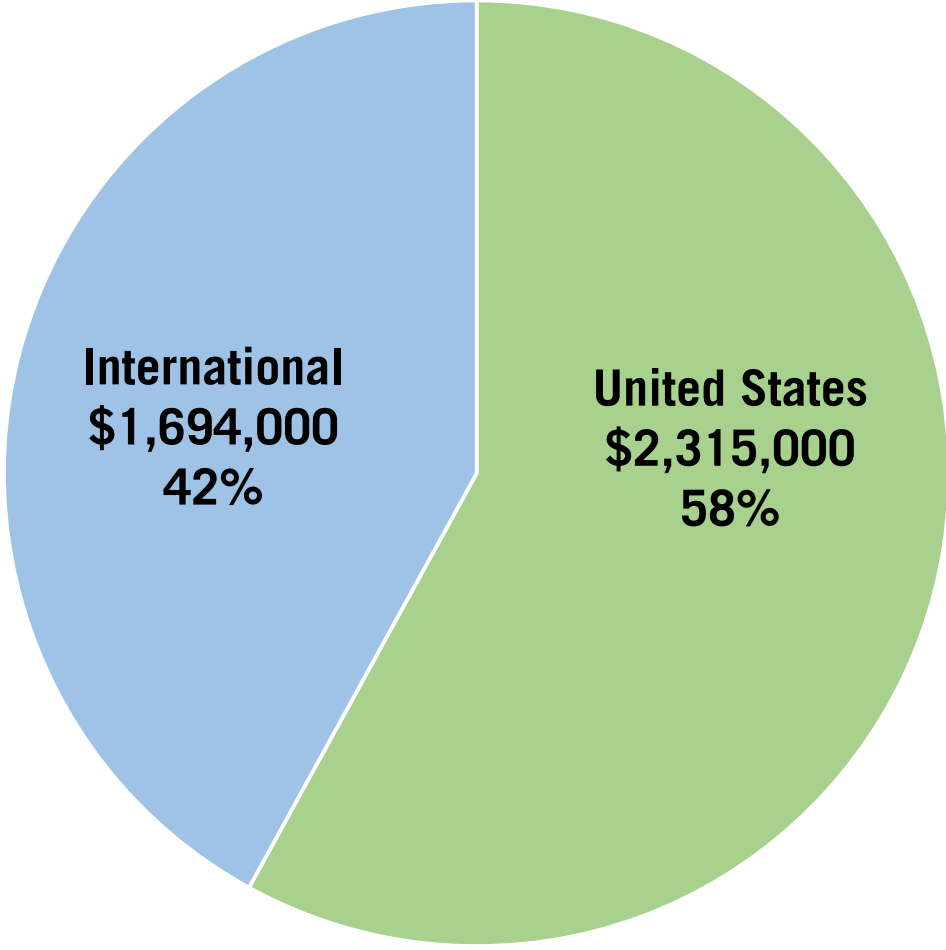
Impact Endowment

Investment Allocation

CEO Demographics



Geography



ABSF’s goal remains to redirect the majority of our investment capital to women and persons of color-led ventures, and we continue to make progress towards this goal.

In gratitude...

ABSF Partners:

- Aabana Community Organization - ACO-Africa
- African Disability Collaboration
- AKIRACHIX
- A Leg To Stand On
- AMPLIFY Girls
- ASCATED
- Autonomia Libertad en Movimiento
- Bulogo Women's Group
- Community Based Inclusive Development Organization
- Creative Action Institute
- Empowered Girls
- Girl Up Initiative
- Girls to Lead Africa
- Gulu Disabled Persons Union
- JEI Seed Fellows Fund
- Jifundishe
- Katalemwa Cheshire House
- Kyaninga Child Development Center
- Lander Community Foundation
- Nevada Nordic
- Northern Kenya Fund
- Okoa Maisha Ya Watoto - OMAWA
- Panda Initiatives
- SEGA
- Street Business School
- The Action Foundation
- The Girls Foundation of Tanzania
- Transiciones
- Untours – Dollars That Make Sense
- Victoria's Giving Foundation
- With Women Kisoboka
- Young Strong Mothers Foundation

