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PHOTOS
Noluthando Nzimande, Mary-Ann Palmer,
Mada Siebert, Mfundo Zeka
THE TEAM
Mada Siebert / Chief Executive
Linette Dube / Program Director
Mfundo Zeka / Head of Food Security
Noluthando Nzimande / Head of Community Development and OVC
Mbalenhle Nkosi / Psychosocial Support Officer
Xoliswa Payiya / Office Administrator & Fundraising Co-ordinator
Ansa Rodenberg / Bookkeeper

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Patricia Dlamini / Chairperson
Mbali Thubisi / Vice Chairperson
Michelle Davidson / Treasurer
Susan Crewe / Trustee
Sam Hoffman / Trustee
Zita Lloyd / Trustee

FOUNDER
Priscilla Higham / Founder & Director Emeritus

UK FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Anne Lambton, Camilla Lowther, Elizabeth Ashcombe, Jade Parfitt, Jane Ormsby Gore, Jasmine Guinness, Jose Fonseca, Lynne Franks, Rosie Bartlett, Susan Crewe, Priscilla Higham, Zita Lloyd
During the reporting period, **ASAP** has grown its reach across 9 wards of the poorest rural wards in the Eastern Cape.

*Click on the map above for an interactive Google Earth exploration*
Message From The Chairperson

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication that have propelled our organization forward. It is my privilege to share with you the remarkable journey we’ve undertaken in pursuit of our mission to bring about positive change in the lives of those we serve.

In the face of challenges, we have stood strong and united, driven by our shared commitment to making a difference. The past year has shown us the power of resilience, adaptability, and the strength that comes from a community of like-minded individuals working towards a common goal. Children remain at the centre of our work, and we continue to look for ways to create an environment that enables them to develop to their full potential.

Our programs have thrived, positively impacting numerous individuals and communities. Throughout the year, dedicated caregivers have continued to provide support Orphans and Vulnerable Children through assessments, home visits, and the provision of essential necessities.

In a country where 2.1 million households face hunger (StatsSA, 2023), our Food Security and Nutrition program empowers unemployed community members through coaching, skills training in sustainable food production and social enterprise development. Each of the villages we support now boasts flourishing vegetable gardens, meeting the community’s food needs creating entrepreneurial opportunities. These programs have also attracted support from corporate South Africa, expanding our donor base and bringing us great satisfaction.

The Nutrition Program, facilitated by the community-based organisations that ASAP support, ensures that every child receives one nutritious meal per day, while home visits have enabled elderly individuals to receive care and food parcels.

Responding to the critical need, our expanding psychosocial support program is gaining momentum, benefiting children, community health workers and the elderly in processing the many traumas they have experienced.
Additionally, our efforts to raise awareness about birth registrations and acquiring identity documents are gaining traction, ensuring that community members can access vital government services.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors,

the dedication of our volunteers, and the hard work of our incredible team. The generosity experienced at the 2022 London lunch is a true testament that kindness is in abundance in this world, despite the difficulties experienced globally. I watched in awe in the Hall as individuals gathered to acknowledge the work of ASAP and contribute towards fulfilment of the vision of its founder Priscilla Higham. The legacy lives on. The friends of ASAP stood firm in ensuring that year in, year out the mission is fulfilled; enabling us to push boundaries, innovate, and overcome hurdles, ensuring that our vision for a better world remains steadfast.

Groundwork has been done; we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of donors in the new financial year 2023 bolstering our programs funding. Our communities continue to thrive whilst new challenges surface; this keeps the ASAP vision alive.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, we would also like to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for the outgoing Chief Executive, Mada Siebert. Her leadership, passion, and unwavering dedication have been instrumental in shaping the organization’s success. We are grateful for her tireless efforts and wish her all the best in their future endeavours.
As we look ahead, we are filled with optimism. Our strategic goals are bold, our determination is enduring, and our belief in the transformative power of collective action is stronger than ever. We are excited to embark on new initiatives, expand our reach, and deepen our impact in the year to come.

At the heart of all this is Good Governance as executed by the ASAP Board of Trustees. Your dedicated stewardship as you ensure good governance practices, perform fiduciary duties, provide overall direction for the organization and ensure the maintenance of public confidence, I am grateful to serve this organisation with yourselves. Your selflessness and generous sharing your expertise and time is much appreciated.

I invite you to explore this annual report and witness the stories of change, the faces of hope, and the progress we have achieved together. Your partnership has been the cornerstone of our success, and we invite you to continue standing with us as we march ahead towards a brighter future.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Your trust and support fuel our passion to create a world where no child goes to bed hungry. Together, we are writing a story of community empowerment, compassion, and lasting change.

Warm regards,

Patricia Dlamini
Chief Executive’s Report

It has been an absolute privilege to have been a part of ASAP for over five years, leading the organization for the past four. It has been an incredible journey serving the rural women, children, and youth who fight such immense battles every day. As I reflect on our accomplishments as a team, I am filled with pride and excitement for the future of ASAP. I firmly believe that we will continue to grow as a powerful force in the change sector, empowering the poorest of the poor to transform their lives for the better.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our exceptionally dedicated and skilled team. We have recently bid farewell to Xoliswa, our office administrator, who retired after 12 years with ASAP. She will be dearly missed, and I am grateful for her years of service. I am also immensely thankful for the tireless efforts and long hours that our team has put in to support communities throughout the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, on top of what has always been a difficult task. In addition, within a short period of time since then, we have successfully implemented a bold new strategy.

While our commitment to ensuring every child’s access to basic human needs remains steadfast, we understand that in order for children to thrive, their communities need to be resilient. And so we have expanded our programs to include a sharper focus on community-driven food security, financial literacy, and addressing gender-based violence. During the past year, we extended our reach from serving two rural communities to nine. Our work now spans a very large rural area around Matatiele, with beneficiary communities in many of Alfred Nzo’s poorest wards.
This achievement was made possible by our committed team working relentlessly towards a common goal. We are proud to have established eight new productive food gardens, improving food security and income potential in rural villages that struggle with multidimensional poverty. I am astonished at how well our small team has navigated numerous logistical challenges, including setting up fencing and water tanks, training women and youth, and ensuring smooth production across a vast and challenging geographic area with extremely bad access roads and very limited signal.

In terms of fundraising, we have been fortunate to experience some special highlights this year. Our UK-based supporters once again demonstrated their immense hearts and ongoing generosity during the biennial London Lunch so beautifully curated by Zita Lloyd and the UK Fundraising Committee. Back home, we had the pleasure of welcoming several South African multi-year institutional funders for site visits in the villages where we work. The Ackerman PnP Foundation and National Lotteries Commission continue funding our Food Security program as cornerstone partners, and the HCI Foundation and Distell Development Trust are welcomed as new development partners in this program. Furthermore, we are delighted to announce our partnership with The FirstRand Empowerment Foundation for our Community Development program over the next three years, during which time we will collaborate to develop a scalable model of this program.

Leading ASAP over the past four years has been a truly inspirational experience. From the vibrant children and their resilient grandmothers, to the proactive women and men in the villages who are tirelessly solving problems and our phenomenally motivated field team, and our actively involved and supportive Board of Trustees and Founder - all of you have been the driving force behind our success.

As we move forward, I am confident that ASAP will continue to make a profound impact on the lives of rural people. Together, we will empower the most vulnerable among us to create a brighter and more sustainable future.

Thank You.

Mada Siebert
Field Report

OVC & Youth

The resilience displayed by our Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated living conditions is truly commendable. The past year saw the emergence of psychosocial support groups within schools, providing a platform for our young individuals to acquire emotional and moral support skills. These groups have become a space for open sharing of life-changing experiences resulting from the group sessions.

In December, 15 youth participants attended the Youth Camp, a five-day leadership retreat. This camp covered a range of topics, including harnessing the power of one’s voice, understanding patriarchal dynamics, and mastering public space lobbying and negotiation. The camp’s highlight was a trip to Durban, offering the participants their first exposure to experiences such as beach outings and extended pool sessions. For many, this marked their inaugural visit to a restaurant.

Our dedicated caregivers persistently catered to the needs of the OVC through comprehensive assessments, home visits, and the provision of essential supplies. Collaborative efforts with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) resulted in sharing cooking techniques to prepare nutritious meals for the OVC. We express our sincere appreciation to all caregivers for their dedication to improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children within their communities.
As of now, 30 caregivers are caring for 824 OVC, and the following was achieved in the reporting year:

- 311,126 meals served
- 341 home visits conducted
- 152 referrals made to external institutions
- 10 children received psychosocial support
- 3 adults obtained identification documents
- 4 children received birth certificates
- 35 mattresses and 55 blankets distributed to OVC in need
- 47 pairs of school shoes and 60 uniforms provided
- 83 OVC participated in career guidance initiatives
- 145 OVC engaged in the Therapeutic Art Workshop
ASAP remained committed to the organisational development of two long standing community-based organizations (CBOs) that have demonstrated significant progress toward sustainability. Through consistent physical and virtual mentoring sessions, Sinikithemba and Silukhanyo CBOs are growing self-sufficient in shaping and executing programmatic plans. We are confident in the caregivers’ ability to directly address the basic requirements of OVC, empowered by innovative risk management tools that reduce dependence on ASAP’s intervention.

The year saw the addition of two new partners to our network. Sinenjongo stands as an exemplar of holistic community development. By embracing agriculture and home gardening, this group are lifting themselves out of poverty, whilst running a drop-in center for OVC. Sinethemba CBO, already well-developed, partnered with us to increase their income generation and fundraising skills. Our CBO collaborators have fostered strong bonds through horizontal learning, enabling us to introduce newer CBOs to the ASAP Model while established ones explore income generation via training.
In 2022, ASAP provided support to eight unemployed groups of women and youth, enabling them to establish productive food garden enterprises in their rural villages. These initiatives aimed to enhance food security and improve livelihoods in the community.

Notable achievements include the installation of full fencing, water tanks, irrigation systems and the construction of shade netting for each of the gardens, based on comprehensive assessments of each site’s specific needs. Furthermore, a five-day food production workshop was organised, engaging 43 gardeners and equipping them with propagation and business skills. These trainings took place in situ and the participants worked together to develop their new gardens during the course and also in work-along days afterwards. Further material assistance in the form of tools, seedlings, and fruit trees was provided to boost the first planting.

The initial harvest was exceptionally fruitful, surpassing expectations and yielding a large variety of vegetables and success with high value crops like eggplants and green peppers. This abundance of produce has had a profound positive impact on the community, schools, and OVC drop-in centers. A total of 1555 children and individuals in vulnerable households were nourished by the output of these gardens, and produce that couldn’t be sold was donated to feeding schemes.

The garden enterprises have demonstrated the significance of collective action in transforming vulnerable communities. Through resilience, innovative initiatives, and strong partnerships, we have made remarkable strides in providing essential support to our target communities.
The Poverty Stoplight tool was designed for development in the third world and is used as both a metric and a methodology to enable people living in poverty to assess the ways in which they are poor and to design and carry out personalised strategies to improve their lives. The survey uses stoplight colours (red, yellow, green) with visual tools and scorecards to create innovative maps of individual household poverty, across 6 dimensions: Income & Employment, Health & Environment, Housing & Infrastructure, Education & Culture, Organisation & Participation, Interiority & Motivation.

The initial survey is followed by planning meetings with ASAP’s trained facilitators who support individuals to create action plans that will enable them to move from red to yellow and yellow to green through self-driven initiatives. ASAPs holistic programme offering provides much of the psychosocial support, skills development (including financial literacy) and income generating opportunities that help individuals shift paradigms and drive change in their lives.

Progress is measured with annual follow-up survey meetings, and individuals can see how their indicators have changed from their baseline survey. The ASAP team further combines these results with its programme specific M&E tools that measure other aspects of project activities and outcomes.

Even within months of the initial survey, the ASAP team learnt that some beneficiaries had already improved in their budgeting, improved income streams and some had even gone back to tertiary education.
# ASAP Statement of Financials

**MAR 2022 - FEB 2023**

## INCOME

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<th>Description</th>
<th>RAND</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donation Income</td>
<td>2 308 190</td>
<td>138 013</td>
<td>113 957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
<td>47 740</td>
<td>2 865</td>
<td>2 357</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>2 355 930</td>
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<td>116 314</td>
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Cash and cash equivalents brought forward from previous year:

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 605 889</td>
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<td>79 284</td>
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## COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

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<th>POUND</th>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Publicity</td>
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<td>21 339</td>
<td>17 619</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK Charity Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Charity Fee</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS</strong></td>
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<td>21 339</td>
<td>17 619</td>
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## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>165 635</td>
<td>136 765</td>
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<td>Management &amp; Administration</td>
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<td>28 822</td>
<td>23 798</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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## ASSETS

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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Other Receivables</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>355 147</td>
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<td>17 534</td>
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## LIABILITIES

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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>137.05</td>
<td>113.16</td>
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US & UK currency has been converted at: $1 = R16.724426 & £1 = R20.254873 (average rate for the year)

77% PROGRAMS
13% MANAGEMENT & ADMIN
10% FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
16
Donors & Sponsors

DONATIONS IN KIND
Amanda Nazo
Harry Curtis & Co
Lehakoe Diaho
Lyle Wills
Matatiele Methodist Church
Odwa Bidla
Philiswa Fihla
Tracy Spriggs
Zimele Store/ Languitsing Farming
Zintle Njiyela

FOUNDATIONS, GOVERNMENT & TRUSTS
Ackerman PicknPay Foundation
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
GivenGain Foundation
Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust
Matrix Causes Fund
National Lotteries Commission
Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation
The Forrester Family Trust

LOCAL PARTNERS
Elegant Man
Isipho sa Mahlubi Disability Empowerment Center
LCB Whittle & Son cc
Donors & Sponsors

INDIVIDUALS
Adam Davey
Adrian Hohler
Alex Richards
Alice Cadestin
Alistair Parker
Amy Hubbard
Angela Murray
Angelo Abbruscato
Ann Goodger
Anthony Collett
Anthony Stroud
Atul Pathak
Aude de Liedekerke
Barney Cordell
Ben Lederman
Britt Lintner
Bruce Ginsberg
Camilla Lowther
Carolina Mazzolari
Carolyn Dailey
Carolyn Hadden-Paton
Castano SE
Catherine Fitzgerald
Catherine Hesketh
Charity Crewe
Charles Fisher Trust
Charles Aboah
Charlotte Barnes
Cindy Hartley
Claire Nathan
Collins Emma
Crispin Somerville
D Benjamin
Dana Hoegh
Deborah James
Deborah Wolton
Diana Baptiste-Young
Diana H Heimann
Dick Kries
Draycott Maggie
E M Elliot
Earl & Countess of Liverpool
Eleanor Reeve
Elizabeth Ashcombe
Elizabeth Rees Jones
Elwood Rainey
Emma Foale
Flora Montgomery
Forester Family Trust
Gawain Rainey
Georgiana Beyhum
Georgina Liverpool
Georgina Norfolk
Hannah Moore
Harriet Wennberg
Helen Pritchard
Henry Brocklehurst
Hugh St.Clair
J C Feldman
J L Draper
Jade Parfitt
Jake Gavin
James Hudleston
Jane Ormsby Gore
Janet Suzman
Jo Sutton
Joanna Randall
Joe Designs
John James
Jonathan Bagley
Kadir Guirey
My Involvement With ASAP

I have always known something of South Africa’s often troubled history, including more recently the devastation wrought by the AIDS epidemic. However it was only a few years ago that I realised that I could play some small part in mitigating the consequences of that scourge.

This happened as a result of a conversation with my kinswoman and neighbour Sue Crewe, a long time trustee of ASAP and active member of the UK Fundraising Committee. She told me of the plight of the very many AIDS orphans living abandoned in dire poverty in remote and impoverished villages in the Eastern Cape, hungry and even at times having to sleep on bare concrete in sub-zero temperatures. She also told me about ASAP, how it was founded some twenty years ago by Priscilla Higham to feed and protect orphans in Matatiele, one of the poorest municipalities in the whole of the country and that it was still very active, funded by donors in the UK and America and increasingly in South Africa itself. And so I became a contributor to ASAP.

My involvement increased considerably following a Zoom call with Sue and Mada Siebert, CEO of the charity. We discussed ASAP hopes and plans to achieve food security in a number of villages in the Matatiele outback by negotiating for land for food gardens to be run and staffed by village CBOs (Community Based Organisations) and by providing the initial capital for training and equipment.
This appealed to me enormously as it would be a start in tackling the roots of poverty rather than just alleviating the consequences - not that ASAP will be able to let up on the latter work for the foreseeable future. As a consequence of this conversation, I found myself in the happy position of being able to commit to contributing to the food programme over an extended period on a scale that I feel was significant both for ASAP and for myself.

The next stage in my involvement with ASAP was a visit to Matatiele in April 2022 together with Sue and Mada. This was my first visit to South Africa and I enjoyed it enormously. I loved the people and I loved the countryside with its wide open spaces and profusion of brilliantly coloured birds and the majestic Drakensberg. (I have since painted a picture of the escarpment which I have been fortunate enough to sell for a useful contribution to ASAP!)

During the visit I met Mada, Linet, Mfundo, Noluthando and all the rest of them and was so impressed with their enthusiasm, team-spirit, good humour and understanding of what they were aiming to achieve and how they were going to do it. While on site, we spent many hours bumping along tracks to startlingly remote and lonely-seeming settlements. We met the dedicated ladies running the CBOs and on one occasion had lunch with them and dozens of very cheerful children (slight language barrier) and were treated to a meal of a very hearty stew (which may or may not be called umphokoqo) served with lashings of spinach from their food garden which had got under way that summer. I came away with the impression of much purposeful work under way and of such money as was available being spent well and frugally.

Indeed I look to the gardens in due course expanding to a position where they can not only satisfy the requirements of their own villages for fresh produce but also have a permanent joint outlet in Matatiele town and possibly further afield. Perhaps there will come a time when Matatiele Honey is famous throughout the country. There certainly seem to be enough flowers in the back country to make that a possibility.

Adrian Hohler
Cumbria, UK
Ntombekhaya’s story
TESTIMONIAL
My name is Ntombekhaya Booi, I am 38 years old and I have 2 children. I have been trained by ASAP on stoplights, there were three colours red, yellow and green. My status was red on the things that I was not successfully doing. I was on red because I was not able to save money as I am a single parent. I was able to get a lot of information because I am now with ASAP. Firstly, I was trained in food gardening, now I am able to grow my vegetables and feed my family. I no longer buy vegetables. I am now able to save money and contribute to stokvel even though it is not much but it does help at home since I am a single parent.

Nontando’s story
TESTIMONIAL
My name is Nontando Sibenya. I live in Bubesi Village. ASAP had a programme that was called stoplight, they introduced me to it. We spoke about the things that I had available at home. Today I will speak about the different colours that are used: red, yellow and green. Red indicates the things that you are lacking, things that you are not able to do or an area that you are not doing well at. I had a problem with my finances, I was not managing my finances well. I would get money for my children and most of the time I would not be able to buy some of the things which I was supposed to buy. Now that I know how important it is to draft my own budget and I draft a budget. I know how much I am getting per month, I can calculate my expenditure based on the money I receive. If you do not budget you will end up in debts that you cannot afford to pay off.

It was difficult for me, since there was no business that I was involved in but now there is a difference. I am able to save and pay for my debts, this has helped me a lot, we are now approaching the end of the year, I have no debt.
How Can You Help?

**MONETARY DONATIONS**

Donations can safely be made through our secure website at: [https://www.africansolutions.org/donate](https://www.africansolutions.org/donate)

Your contribution will go towards helping the communities in which we operate.

You can make once-off, monthly or annual donations. There is no minimum amount - every cent counts!

As an approved public benefit organisation, donations to the organisation will be tax deductible and are exempt from donations tax.

**DONATIONS**

Material support is always welcome.

We accept and appreciate art supplies, carpets, sewing supplies, laptops/computers, water tanks, garden implements and seedlings/trees, stationery, blankets and warm winter clothing (for children and adults)

**VOLUNTEERS**

Please email [info@africansolutions.org](mailto:info@africansolutions.org) to get involved.
Thank You.

African Solutions to African Problems