

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

PAPER FIG
FOUNDATION



Impact Report

2023



From the Leadership Team

Looking back at 2023, we are proud to have fulfilled goals laid out in the "forward looking vision" from last year's Impact Report. We invested in a Master Class series that introduced business development, laying the groundwork to launch this year's Entrepreneurship Program. We have touched thousands of lives, making them better through skill training, confidence building, healthcare, and community support. We have helped people in peril by offering safe spaces for engagement and learning, and by refusing to give up on individuals when it seems other had.

This has not been easy. Working in places where human rights are threatened means working quietly, consistently, and without rest. While the Paper Fig Foundation offers skills training and healthcare, those who have worked directly with us know that we offer something far deeper: acceptance, safety, and community.

The struggles we face often surprise us with their simplicity and urgency. For example, we worked hard to create a Master Class that would teach our graduates advanced skills, ensured the sewing machines were ready and there was fabric and thread. But when our students arrived, we realized they weren't ready to learn because they were hungry.

We are often asked "What does "empowerment through fashion and the arts" mean?" To us, it means making sure the individuals we work with have ALL the tools to stand up for themselves, support themselves both financially and through new connections, and to contribute to their communities. Because we are all connected.

Always,

Laurie, Emily, Edith, and the PFF team



UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Out of the 17 core United Nations SDGs, the Paper Fig Foundation is fully and squarely aligned with these incredibly important ones as part of our own core mission statement.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Reduce inequality within and among countries



PFF Skills Training

The *Paper Fig Skills Training Center* remains the access point for the community of Kasese, Uganda. It is a free tailoring program open to anyone who has been unable to access traditional education and has equipped hundreds of graduates with the skills to support themselves and their families.

315

Graduates of the PFF Skills Training Center

80%

Graduation rate for those enrolled in the Skills Training Center

70%

Of our graduates are currently working as tailors/designers/or in a related field

3x

The earning potential of a PFF graduate as compared with an individual with comparable education who did not complete our program



New teachers = New energy

At the beginning of 2023, we launched the Visiting Teacher Program as a 3-month trial. Uganda Seed Project winner Brian Sonco moved from Kampala, and under his guidance, students and faculty reported that their skills were immediately improving, and his level of expertise and professionalism added volumes to the quality of education.

For his part, Mr. Sonco cherished the experience. From the safety and space of Kasese, he was able to create again. He spent the year working on a line called “Transform” in which everything can transform into something else, like a jacket that becomes a bag.

He also managed the 3rd Official Paper Fig Fashion Show in Kasese and served as lead designer and finisher for the 45 PFF tailors who walked in the show, wearing dresses they made themselves under Brian’s guidance.

50 students have completed their Skills Training Program and are preparing for graduation in early 2024. They will be invited to continue their work with the Paper Fig Foundation by joining the PFF Alumni Association.



PFF Alumni Association

Master Classes, workshops, and volunteer opportunities served **100** PFF Alumni and Students and over **1,000** school children.

Master Classes:

- Using Sustainable Materials for a Global Market
- The Business of Fashion
- Knowing Your Value

International Day of the Girl and Women's Day:

- Destigmatize menstruation by making Reusable Menstrual Pads for **500** young women in Kasese.

We Are All Connected:

- **500** bracelets commissioned for New York-based school children learning about Kasese, Uganda.

The PFF Entrepreneurship Program

This program was conceived of in collaboration with Fiona Naigwe, PFF mentor based in Kampala to help graduates of Paper Fig put their skills to use to thrive.

- Master Classes focused on prepping for Kampala or other major city markets. Program includes guidance on how to perfect finishes, branding and packaging, promotion, storytelling, and sales.
- **2 Mentors, 3 Teachers, and 30 Students** in Inaugural Class
- Students work collaboratively to create a cohesive Paper Fig collection.
- Help to find small business grants to help women launch small businesses online
- Learning / Field trips into market (Kampala) to attend and work at a market under the leadership of PFF Lead, Fiona Naigwe.



PFF Health Center

The PFF Health Center continues to be an essential resource for the community of Kasese.

2023 Metrics

- 1,995 accessed the health center in 2023
- 800 vaccinations in 2023

Since 2016 Metrics

- 14,229 total patients
- 5,786 total vaccinations



PFF Health Center

Malaria is the primary health concern in the region, with worsening flooding, heavy rainfall, and extreme weather making the situation more challenging. Despite these challenges, the establishment of the PFF Health Center has significantly lowered the illness rates. The Center continues to play a crucial role in providing essential preventive education and treatment options for the community.



**200 TREATED
MOSQUITO NETS
DISTRIBUTED**



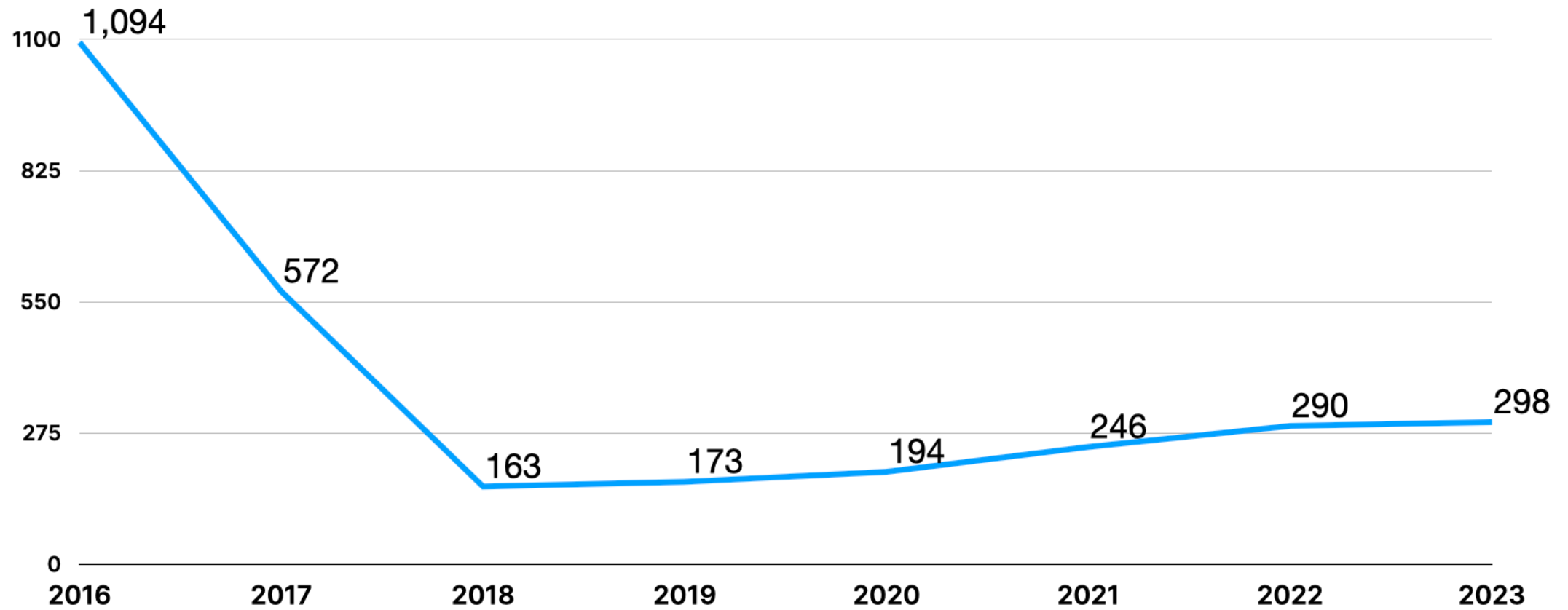
**DENISE DEJONG
WATER TANK
PROVIDES CLEAN
WATER TO 250 PEOPLE**



**REGULAR STOCK OF
MALARIA
MEDICATION**



NUMBER OF MALARIA CASES 2016-2023

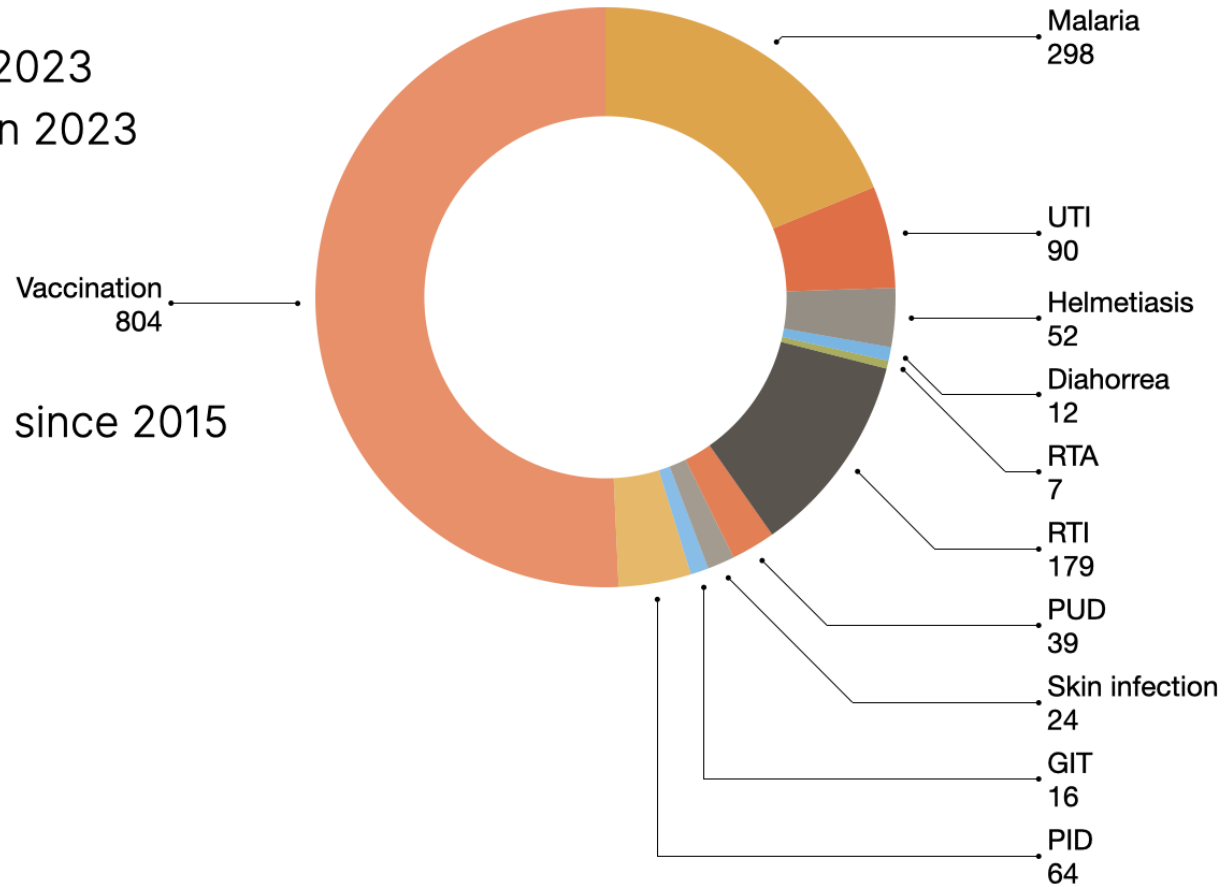


PATIENTS TREATED IN 2023 BY CATEGORY

804 patients vaccinated in 2023
1995 total patients treated in 2023

14229 total patients treated since 2015

ABBREVIATIONS	
RTI	Respiratory Tract Infections
UTI	Upper Tract Infections
PUD	Peptic Ulcer Disease
RTA	Road Traffic Accidents
GIT	Gastro Interitice
PID	Pelvic inflammatoryDisease
GIT	Gastro Interitice
PID	Pelvic inflammatoryDisease
URTI	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection





73 Pregnant women accessed the PFF Health Center from November 2023-January 2024, but there is currently no place to deliver babies.

Laboring women have had to walk **10 kilometers (6 miles)** to the nearest facility

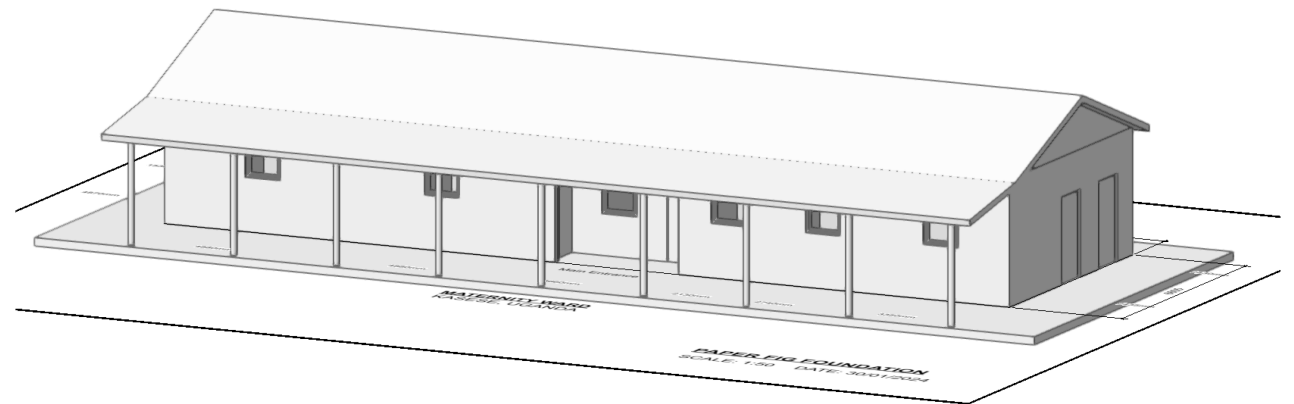
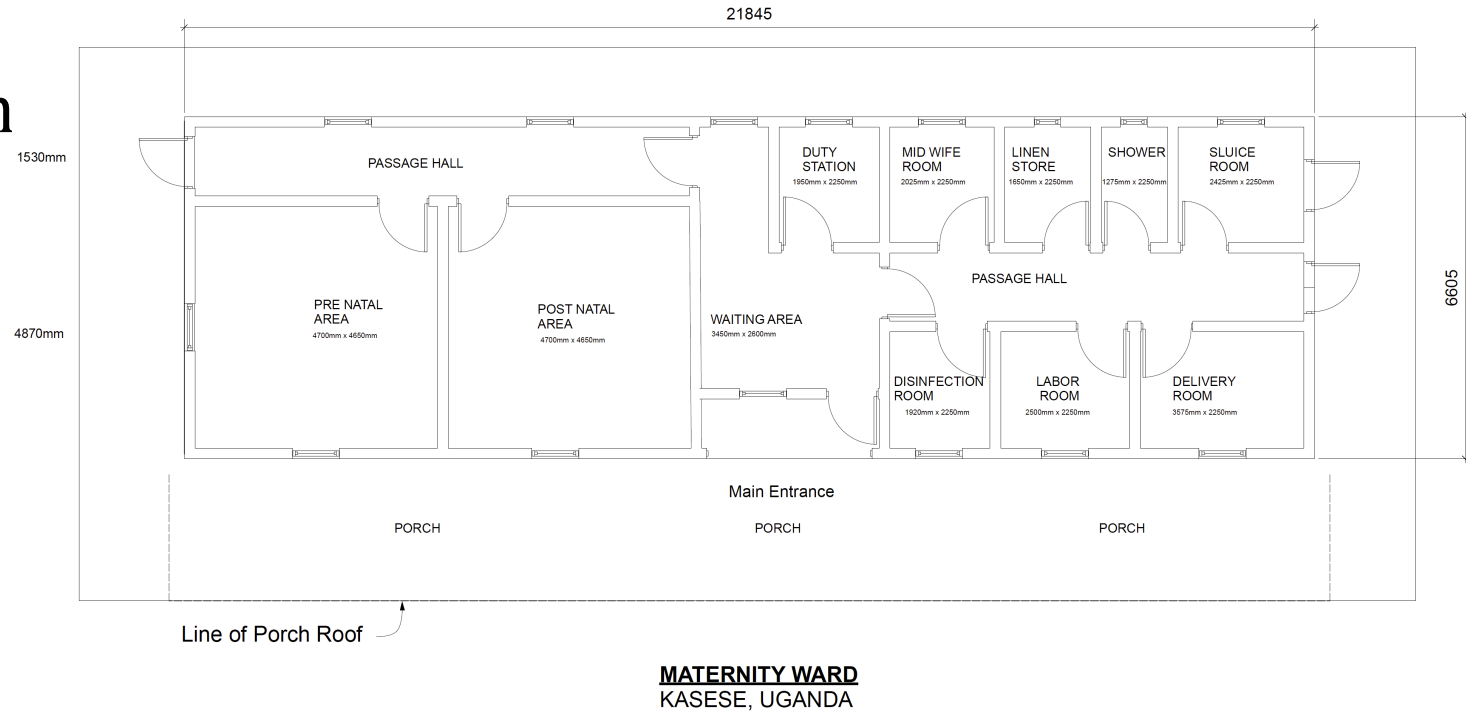


Countless women from the area have drowned trying to cross the river, or have died laboring at home

The Maternity Center Campaign

Dr. Joseph, Reverend Christopher, and other members of the community in Kihara have repeatedly asked for a maternity center. Too many times, they have seen women and babies die for lack of access to a safe place to give birth. While it's difficult to calculate how many potential patients we've missed, we do know that about 75 pregnant women utilized services like prenatal vitamins, checkups, and treated mosquito nets in the last 3 months of 2023.

We are working on solidifying a partnership with an internationally respected charitable organization that could provide up to **\$100,000** for technology, equipment, and staffing of a maternity center.



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