



Annual Review 2024 & 2025

Introduction

Our heritage

We have been working with communities for over 25 years, since 1999. In 2005 we formalised as an an organisation.

Why beekeeping

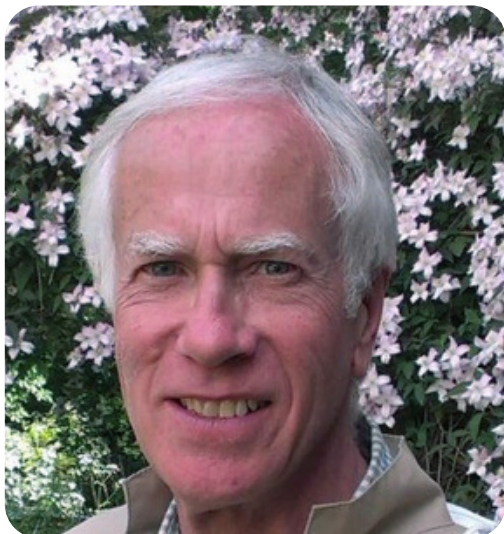
Beekeeping enterprises provide sustainable income long after our involvement ends. Money from the sale of honey and other products of the hive improves livelihoods by paying for improved nutrition, education, medicines and much more. Honeybees improve pollination, which increases crop yields and further boosts livelihoods.

Bees Abroad uses beekeeping as a tool to enable rural communities to empower themselves to achieve their own vision. We provide training and mentoring to communities through local partners on beekeeping, business skills and caring for the local environment.

Our approach

Over the years we have built trusting relationships with our network of in-country delivery partners and trainers, continuously developing and improving ways of working. Working with local partners and experts is central to our approach and the key to our success. They deliver our projects, we provide light-touch oversight from our Partnership Managers, a volunteer role. Our Partnership Managers are highly qualified in areas relevant to our projects, including beekeeping and business skills. They provide guidance and advice to the projects.

We work with communities that seek our support and have a plan to continue activities after our support comes to an end. We are proud to work at a grassroots level, collaborating with communities and will continue to do so as we grow.



RICHARD RIDLER

Chair of Trustees

I am delighted to introduce our 2025 impact report. At home, our team has grown in strength and depth. The response to our search for new trustees was amazing. Our board now numbers eleven each with experience and skills relevant to our work. Also, it now includes members from the countries where we work and in-depth experience of projects for women. We have expanded our team of volunteers to match our growing number of projects. Many are beekeepers ensuring we continue to have a good understanding of the beekeeping challenges faced by our projects.

Our first social enterprise providing employment for women with albinism in Tanzania now operates independently producing and selling products of the hive. In Western Uganda throughput of honey at Bulhalho, the much larger social enterprise we support, now exceeds 20 tonnes per annum and supports many local communities. We have recruited volunteers with financial and legal skills to support their further growth. Our focus on women continues with 51% of those trained being women. I must thank Katerina, our CEO, for her inspiring leadership ensuring that together we create lasting change through beekeeping. Lastly a big thank you all for supporting us, we hope you find this report of interest.

Things can move so fast when you are operating at the grassroots level, that it is often hard to create space to celebrate success.

Putting the Annual Review together has served as a reminder of all the activities and impact that has been achieved by our community. From setting up social enterprises, to introducing beekeeping to schools and prisons, to seeing marginalised groups become role models, this report is our moment of celebration.

Leading a small organisation powered by such incredible and dedicated volunteers never ceases to inspire and motivate me. This document celebrates them and our in-country partners just as much.

But what is more, this document puts together the success of our local communities and how beekeeping has been a catalyst for change for them.

As we move forward, growth is central to our strategy but not in the traditional way. Growth for us is about evolution, partnerships and collaborations, and about building local capacity and resilience.



KATERINA PROKOPIOU
CEO

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2024/5 IN NUMBERS

932

Project participants
(people trained)

201

Requests for support

24

Projects
completed

21

New projects
approved

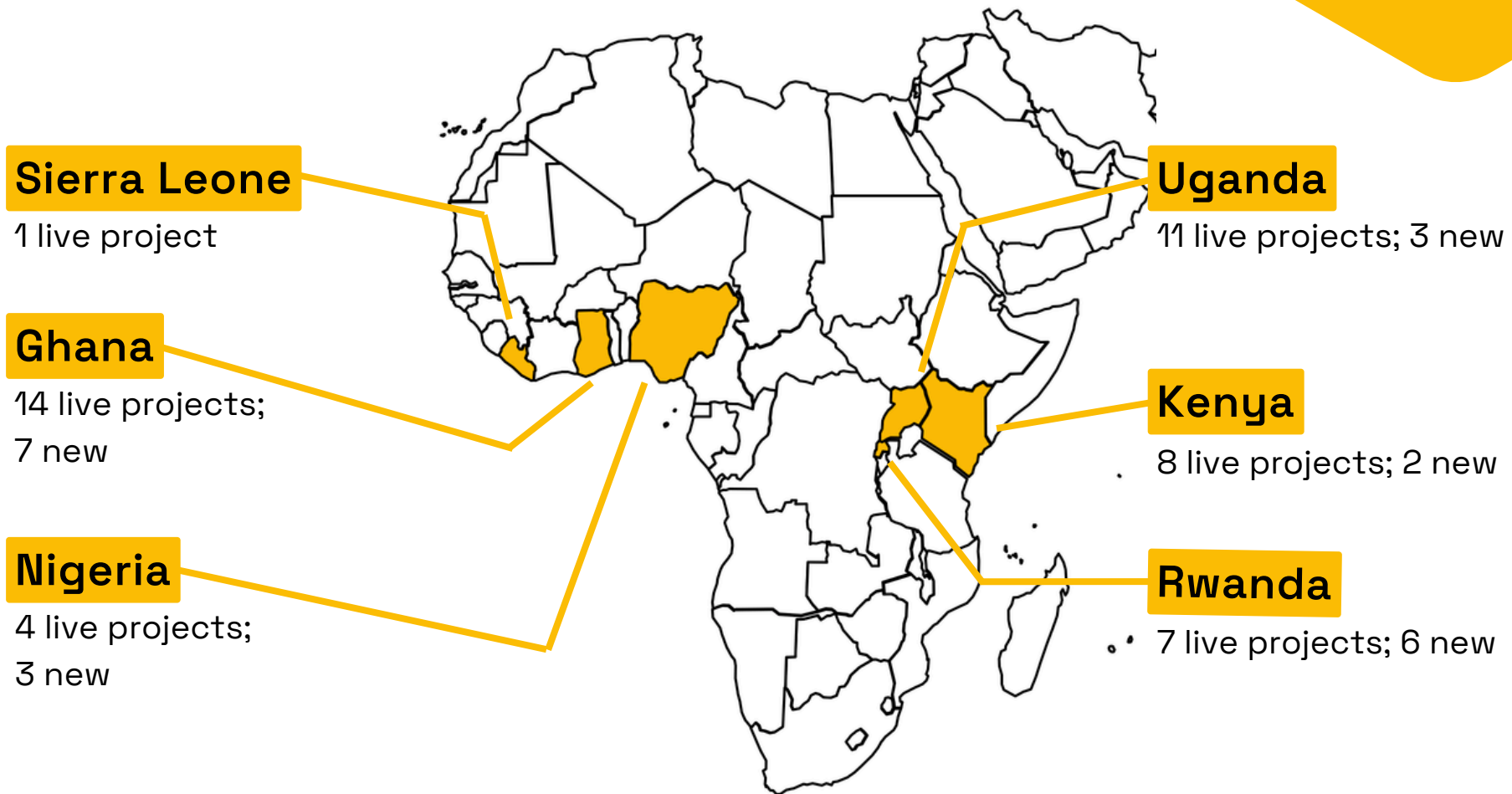
51%

Women

Bees Abroad Country Map: Live projects

45

Live projects



Our portfolio of projects

Our dynamic portfolio

We have a dynamic portfolio of projects. The composition of the portfolio changes year to year with shifts in the number of closed, live and newly approved projects. There are also changes in the countries we work in, depending on demand and availability of qualified Partnership Managers, a role for which people donate their time.

What we cover in this report

The focus of this report is on projects closed in 2024 and 2025. Projects are closed when they are successfully completed or stopped. On occasion, projects are stopped if assessments show they are not viable. This allows us to divert our funds to viable projects in need of resources. In addition to reporting on closed projects, we have included a case study for each country we worked in during the period the report covers.

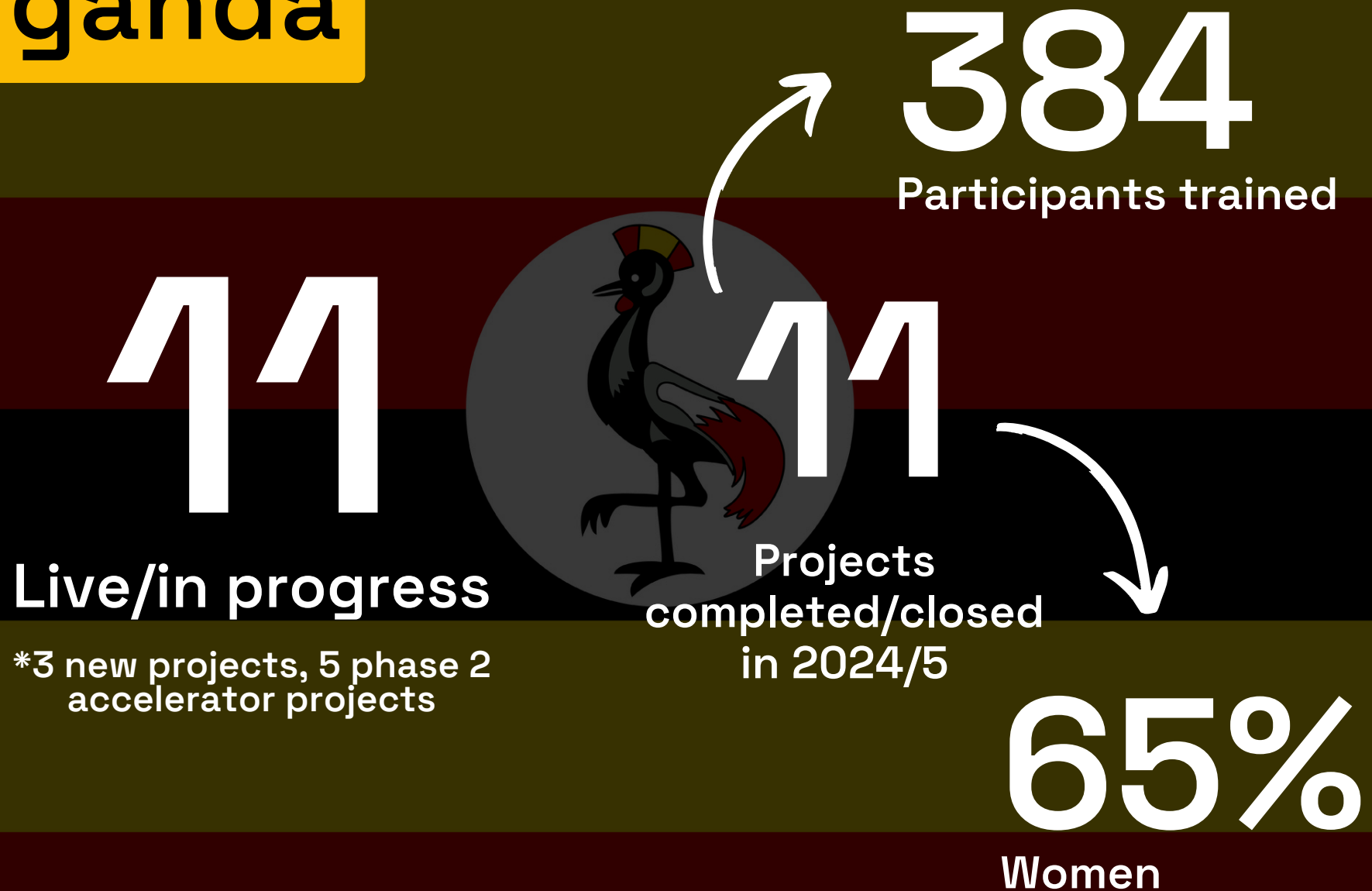
Project design

Our project proposals come from the communities themselves. Our Partnership Managers screen for eligibility. All projects go through an internal investment committee that reviews the technical aspects, risk and budget of a project before allocating funds. We take an adaptive management approach and periodically review progress and continued funding. We have two main types of projects: community development and multi-year strategic.

Two-phase design

The majority of our community development projects now follow a two-phase approach. Approved projects will enter a foundation phase that provides support to build knowledge and resources. Projects then go on to an 'accelerator' phase if there is high demand, capability and local leadership to develop enterprises from beekeeping.

Uganda





Anasi Farmers Uganda

19 participants trained
45% female

Anasi Farmers are a woman led group formed to improved food security through sustainable agriculture. They are economically disadvantaged subsistence farmers who requested support to improve initial investments in beekeeping. This group's honey harvest (25kg/hive/yr) was more than double the target (10kg/hive/yr).



TEA-BBA Uganda

35 participants trained
23% female

The project is the first step towards establishing a potential new delivery partner. TEA was established to advocate for the local community. The project trained and equipped 35 (27M+8F) existing beekeepers with the goal of increasing their honey production and identifying candidates for future training as trainers. 10



Kigaragara community - Elephant & bees project

30 participants trained
50% female

This beekeeping project was designed to reduce human-wildlife conflict through bee fences to deter elephants from raiding farmers' crops. 100 hives adapted to hang on fences were provided along with training and equipment. At the point of 'graduating' from support of Bees Abroad, 40% of the hives were colonised.



Kasese Women's Cluster

133 participants trained
80% female

A cluster of four women's groups within reach of the commercial centre of Kasese district, which offers good market access. The groups received value-add training as well as beekeeping. Many of the women started their own product ranges, including beeswax shoe polish. Phase 2 of this project is now in progress.



Bayira Women's Rural Devt Assoc

22 participants trained
60% female

Founded in 1998, this group runs several projects, including consolidating their coffee harvest to secure a better price for their harvest. Before Bees Abroad's involvement, they had hives but low productivity. Training has resulted in an impressive 95% colonisation rate, supporting their coffee production and adding honey as an income stream.



Kyamboma Action for Life Development

29 participants trained
40% female

Action 4 Life was formally registered in 2021 and started beekeeping in 2022. In 2023, Bees Abroad supported the group with training and 20 additional beehives in a group apiary. They achieved 100% colonisation and an impressive first honey harvest. This group is applying for phase 2 support to set up a tree nursery.



Kisebere Vayora Foundation for Women group

**20 participants trained
80% female**

Founded in 2017 by five women, the group now has 35 members and was created to address poverty. It began by tackling early marriage, domestic violence, and promoting health and education. Today, it focuses on women's economic empowerment through beekeeping, fish farming, and savings and credit activities.



Divine Revelation Apiaries

**20 participants trained
30% female**

Divine Revelation Apiaries is a self-motivated group that started beekeeping in 2021 as an alternative source of income, but was unable to expand due to limited resources. They contacted Bees Abroad for support to expand their beekeeping project. They currently have 47 beehives.



Katunga Women Development

13 participants trained
92% female

The women group was started in 2018 as a passion fruit growing group. The trees attracted bees so they integrated beekeeping after learning that the two activities were complementary. They reported that beekeeping is more profitable than many other local enterprises, and are now working on expanding their beekeeping activities.

No photo available

Rukoki Integrated Farmers

13 participants trained
51% female

The group was started by 15 youth in 2016 and has now increased to 30. The area has over 100 people who are interested in beekeeping. The main goal for the group is to empower the youth to participate in poverty eradication activities, including beekeeping, fish farming and agro processing.

No photo available

Bughumba Butyoka Women Group

50 participants trained
90% female

This group was started in 1999 with a primary mission to improve the living standard of women, children, youth, orphans and persons living with HIV/AIDS. In 2020, 50 members started beekeeping. Bees Abroad supported the group to improve their beekeeping skills in 2023.





Lasting impact: Hoima, 10 years on

(Photo from 2012 initial Bees Abroad visit to Hoima project)

A long-term impact assessment of the Bees Abroad Hoima project in Uganda was conducted in 2024 and 2025. The Hoima project cluster comprised 16 communities, of which 10 were revisited as part of the assessment.

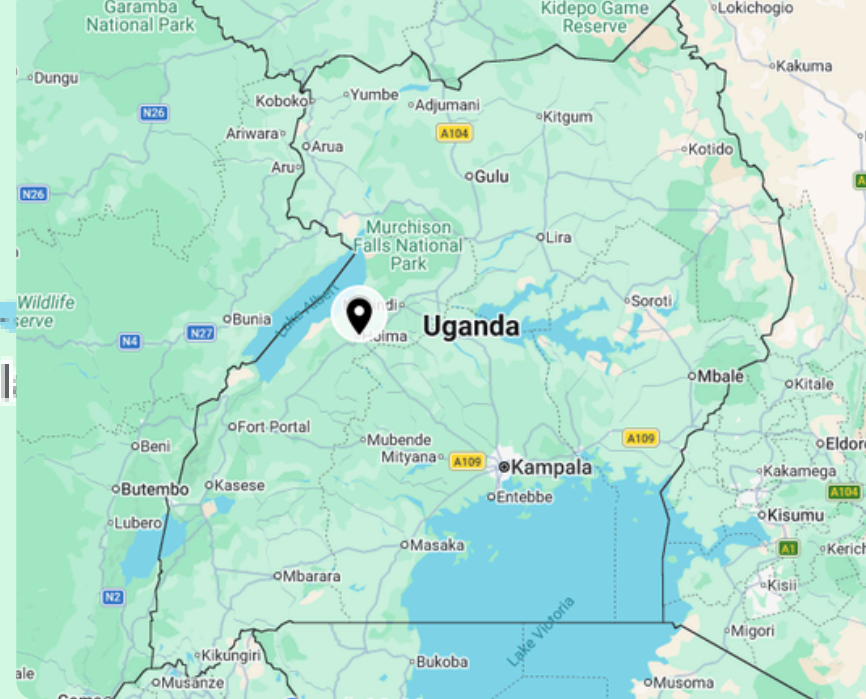
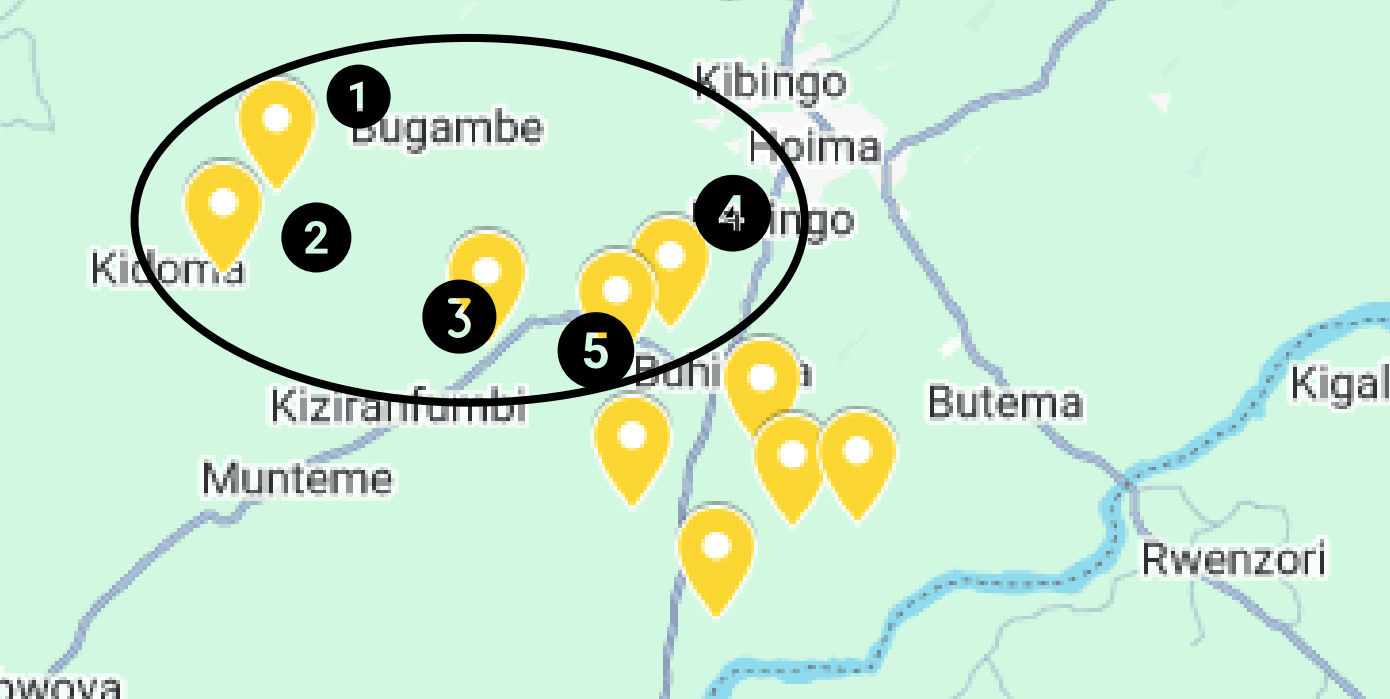
The Hoima project is a cluster of communities in Western Uganda where Bees Abroad provided beekeeping training between 2012 and 2016. A decade on, 80% of the communities revisited are still successfully engaged in beekeeping and have integrated it into their livelihoods.

A photograph of a group of women in a rural setting. In the foreground, a woman with a pink headwrap and a light-colored shirt has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture. Behind her, several other women are visible, some also wearing headwraps. The background shows lush green trees and foliage. The image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

80%

Of the assessed ten projects trained a decade ago (2012-2016), eight are still successfully engaged in beekeeping.

On average across the projects, beekeepers receive roughly the equivalent of an extra month's salary per year from honey sales.



Group 1: Tugonzangane Katanwa

Active beekeepers: 3

Highlight: one of the members now has 200 hives.

Group 2 : Wambabya Women

Active beekeepers: 8

Highlight: Selling as a cooperative to a buyer in Hoima (a major town).

Group 3: Kyakiiza Women - see feature case study on the following page

Group 4: Kyabatalya Kombaho Women

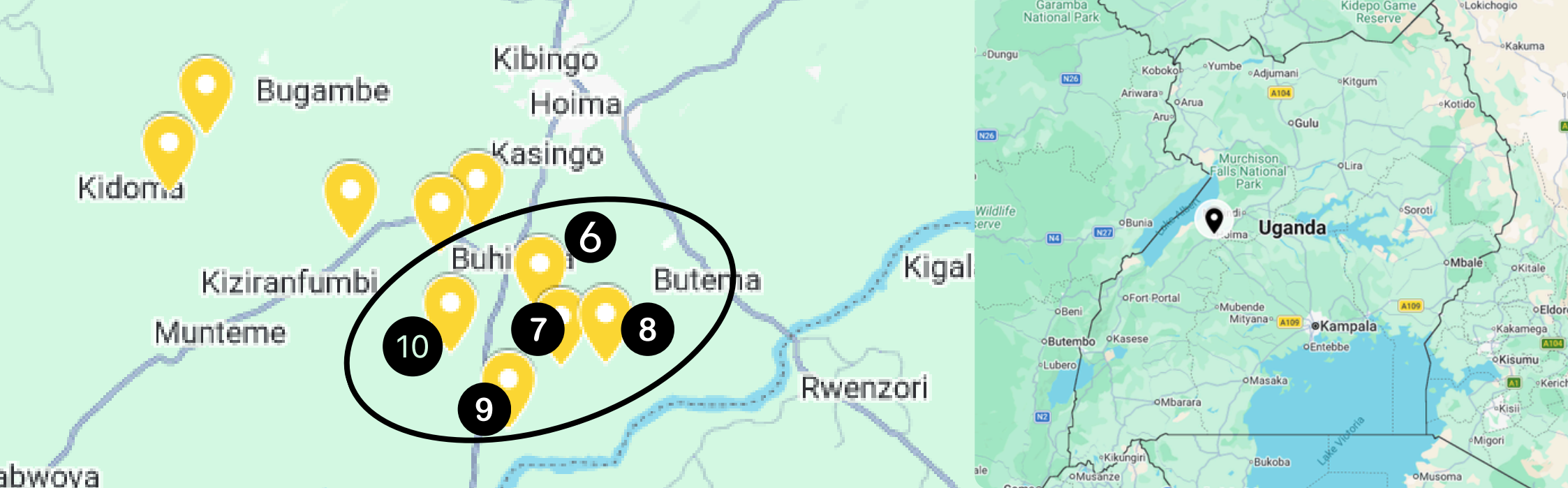
Active beekeepers: 4

Highlight: Hoima District, impressed by their performance, further invested in their beekeeping.

Group 5: Kigaya-Kinyagirwa Women

No longer beekeeping.





Group 6 : Tulibamu Bujalya

Active beekeepers: 7

Highlight: Reported an increase in crop harvest as a result of keeping bees.

Group 7: Tweimukye women

Active beekeepers: 16

Highlight: Inspired a local group of farmers to also successfully take on beekeeping.

Group 10: Karama Women

No longer beekeeping.

Group 8: Tulibamu Bujalya

Active beekeepers: 7

Highlight: Reported an increase in crop harvest as a result of keeping bees.

Group 9: St. Joseph Bujumbura Kolping Family

Active beekeepers: 6

Highlight: Reinvesting honey money into other community businesses. including cattle, pigs and brass banding making.

Kyakiiza women: doubling honey money through mushroom cultivation

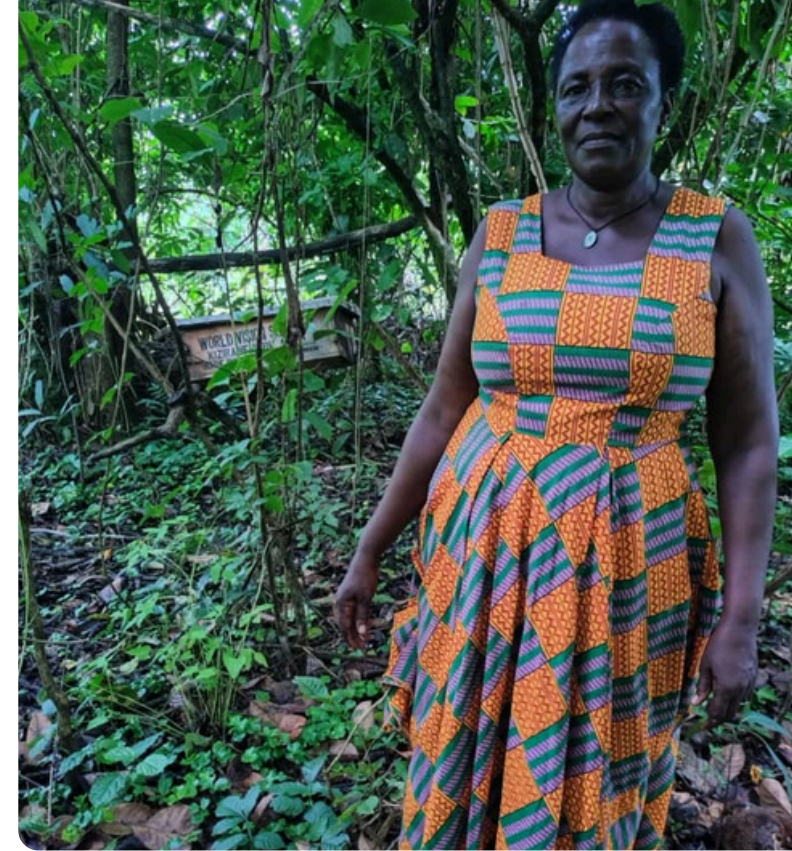
Date of visit: 15th July 2025

Original number of women trained: 11

Current number of women beekeepers: 7

The Kyakiiza Women's Group was formed in 2012, when 11 women came together with the aim of improving their socio-economic status through beekeeping. At the time, only three had beehives, all of which were traditional hives. With training and Kenya Top Bar (KTB) hives, each woman established her own apiary close to home.

Each member now harvests approximately 30–35kg of honey per year (one member with six hives produces around 42kg), generating between UGX 200,000–250,000 annually from honey sales (£42-52).



When their original hives could no longer be maintained, the group's visible commitment attracted further support from World Vision, who provided replacement hives after being impressed to see women thriving in what is often perceived as a male-dominated activity.



Mushroom cultivation funded through honey money

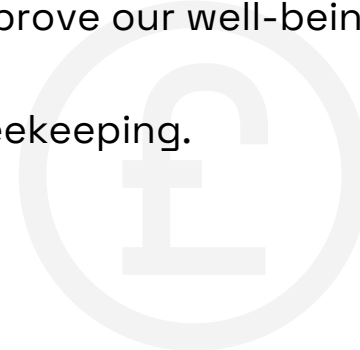
Double your money

Members have gone on to multiply the impact of their honey income:

- Sarah Kayonza invested UGX 200,000 from honey sales into mushroom cultivation – a business that now doubles her original beekeeping revenue.
- Immaculate and Mbabazi used their honey income to establish a small piggery. With one sow producing two litters of at least eight piglets each year, and piglets selling for UGX 50,000–70,000, the enterprise generates approximately UGX 1,000,000 annually.

“Money from this small pig business has helped us a lot to improve our well-being.”

It all started with beekeeping.



Hoima: lasting impact

Ten years on, the Hoima cluster demonstrates what long-term impact should look like: skills embedded locally, income streams diversified and money reinvested.



Hoima report: about the assessor

Dr Samuel Kaheesi Kusiima was a key part of the Hoima cluster project and long-term assessment. He was a director of the Bigasa Sustainable Development Foundation (BISUDEF) when the BISUDEF Women's Beekeeping Project was launched in Hoima District in 2012 with support from Bees Abroad.

In 2024, Bees Abroad commissioned Samuel to conduct a comprehensive post-project assessment, revisiting all ten original groups.

Alongside this work, Samuel completed his PhD at Makerere University. His thesis, Implications of land use and land cover change on ecosystem services and human well-being in the Budongo–Bugoma landscape, reflects his wider commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being.

(With thanks to Stuart Andrews, Bees Abroad Partnership Manager, for supporting the Hoima cluster project and long-term assessment alongside Samuel.)



A photograph of a man standing in a forest, holding a flaming torch. He is wearing a colorful, patterned tank top. The background shows trees and a large log. A yellow banner with the text 'South Sudan project' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

South Sudan project

South Sudan became the World's youngest country in 2011 following 20 years of civil wars. It remains unstable and the UK government advises against all travel. Support for communities in-country is therefore challenging and limited.

We received a request through our website for support from the Namatina Payam Community Beekeeping (NPCB), in South Sudan. The community has practised beekeeping for many generations, this is what they told us when they requested support:

“Beekeeping is a traditional income generating activities handed over to us by our ancestors and we educate our children through it. It's a source of income handed down to us by our ancestors and we need to improve on it for better production.”



We first explored whether we could help them find support from an organization with a presence in South Sudan but found that there were none. We could not ask our local partner in Uganda, the closest Bees Abroad country, to travel because of the security risk. The only option was to bring them to us and our local partner, LIDEFO, in Uganda.

Following the training, one of the participants, Natale, told us that after returning to South Sudan, he sat down with the community members under the shade of trees to teach everyone what he had learned. “They were excited to see all of that and know that people from other parts of the world harvest honey without fire and no bee stings.”

We are exploring how we can provide more support to this community while navigating the difficult security problems.

Uganda - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Managers for Uganda, Richard Ridler, Jane Ridler, Ali Hollingberry, David Holloway, Dave Bonner and Niki Backes for donating their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen. Thank you also to Annedore Smith, who supported David Holloway with the Bulhalho foundation by providing organisational training and securing funds from the German embassy. Thank you to Sasha Mullen and Mike Baralic who supported the website design and branding for Bulhalho.

Our local partner in Uganda is the Liberty Development Foundation (LIDEFO) and Bulhalho Foundation. We also work with independent trainers.



Nigeria

4

Live/in progress

*3 new projects

3

Projects
completed/closed
in 2024/5

69

Participants trained

22%

Women



Dangora Farm Co-op

24 participants trained
30% female

Reinvested honey money to construct an additional 10 hives. “Apart from income generated, we have acquired so much knowledge on the beekeeping value chain. Our status in the community has been uplifted”. The group has also started training others with people reportedly coming “from near and far” to learn about beekeeping.



CorrFac Ogun State

24 participants trained
0% female (men's prison)

This project took place at a men's prison. With Bees Abroad's support, beekeeping was added as a rehabilitation and reform activity to offer inmates a livelihood. Many of the inmates have not received any education or training, which is often why they turn to crime.

Nigeria Case Study: Training of Trainers

Demand for Bees Abroad training has been growing across the countries we work in, and Nigeria is no exception.

The Bees Abroad Nigeria team developed a strategy to meet this demand: a Training of Trainers program with a regional approach and integrated with Slow Food principles to build on the success of the Slow Food, Slow Beekeeping initiative.

Target: 300 new beekeepers trained by new trainers.



Country wide Training of Trainers

History of Bees Abroad in Nigeria

Bees Abroad has worked in Nigeria since 2000, delivering sustainable beekeeping projects through long-standing, trusted in-country partnerships. Historically, enquiries have required small-scale interventions to improve the livelihoods of local communities through improved, modern and sustainable beekeeping practices.

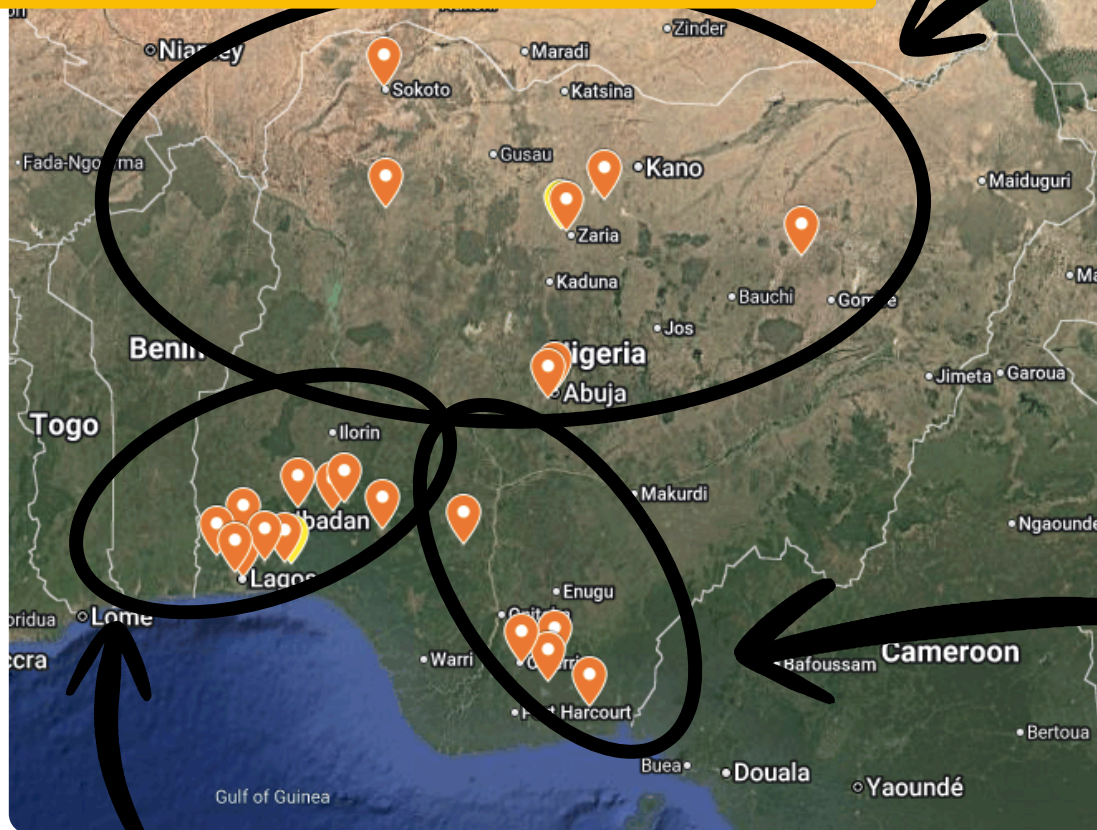
A new approach

Nigeria team is shifting their from responding to ad hoc enquiries to delivering a more strategic, regionally focused portfolio of 4–8 interconnected projects at a time. This approach will strengthen impact, improve economies of scale and create a multiplier effect within selected regions.

Delivering the new approach - Training of Trainers

The training of the trainers program will significantly expand the Bees Abroad trainers network in Nigeria. Regional clusters will increase geographic reach (Nigeria is ~4x the size of the UK) and enable a more localised approach as both ecology and culture vary enormously across this diverse country.

Nigeria trainers map



Northern Nigeria

1. Idris Mohammed Barau – Senior Trainer
2. Ogunleye Olayemi Moses
3. Umar Farouq Idris
4. Abubakar Abdullahi
5. Abdulkadir Abdullahi
6. Yau S Baki
7. Abdulkadir Bala Dankaka
8. Ibrahim Zahirat Momoh

Eastern Nigeria

1. Sunday Idaewor
2. Onwuzama Helen Tochi
3. Jinanwa Innocent Chidi
4. Agu Gift Ugochinyere
5. Quentin Udoh

Southwest Nigeria

1. Tunde Adenola Oreyemi – Senior Trainer
2. Esther Soremi
3. Agboola Abidemi Samuel
4. Oluwajimi obafemi oreymi

5. Ajayi Joseph Ajibola
6. Aseniyei Oluwagbenga Ezekiel
7. Asáde Elijah Akanni
8. Opeyemi Godspower
9. Oluwagbemi Peter Banji

Spotlight on new trainers:

Mrs. Funmilayo Ogunlaja and Agboola Abidemi Samuel



Mrs. Funmilayo Ogunlaja

“I’m Mrs. Funmilayo Ogunlaja, a proud beekeeper and founder of Hivegolden Bee Suits. Through practical training under the Life Women Slow Food Garden Community, I didn’t just learn beekeeping; I discovered a passion for creating durable, affordable, and comfortable bee suits for our growing community. Deepest thanks to the Bees Abroad Nigeria team for believing in grassroots impact and supporting women-led initiatives like mine.”



Mr. Agboola Abidemi Samuel

Sparked by a childhood encounter with a wild honeybee colony in 2005, Mr. Agboola began a lifelong journey. Today, he manages hundreds of bee colonies across several Nigerian states and runs training and outreach programs that empower rural communities, promote environmental conservation, and support education, pollination, biodiversity, and youth development.

You can view all twenty trainer profiles on our Notion database via our website: [Our Work>Our Beekeepers>Meet Them All](#)

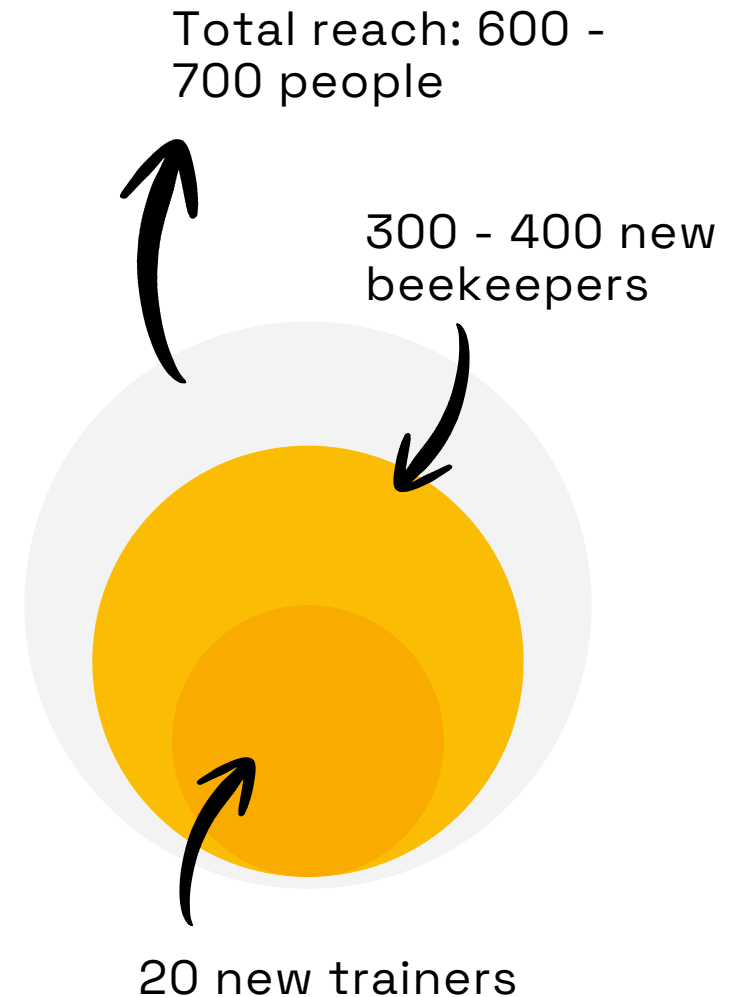
Train the Trainers - impact

MULTIPLIER EFFECT (YEARS 1-3):

- 20 trainers × 15-20 trainees each = 300-400 additional beekeepers
- Total reach: 600-700 people
- Knowledge spreads organically through communities

LONG-TERM (YEARS 3-10):

- Beekeeping becomes normalized community practice
- Youth stay in rural areas (viable futures visible)
- Women gain economic agency through income generation
- Local honey value chains develop



MULTIPLIER EFFECT YEARS 1-3

Big Give 2025: Pollinating Progress

Context

Small-scale farmers produce 90% of Nigeria's food, yet over 72% live in extreme poverty. Most lack access to stable, diverse income and are hit hardest by climate change and economic shocks.

With no safety net or alternative livelihoods, these communities remain trapped in cycles of poverty that deepen with every failed crop and rising cost of living. Women and youth face even greater barriers to economic opportunity.

Funding Pollinating Progress

Building on our 2024 success (£50,000 raised), we decided to be more ambitious in 2025: fund a complete programme through the Big Give rather than piecing together funding over months.

This strategic decision, raising our typical 3-4 month target in just 7 days, showed our growing confidence in matched funding campaigns and our supporters' commitment to sustainable development.

**Christmas
Challenge**

BigGive



Nigeria - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Managers for Nigeria, Bisi New and Bolu Durogbola for donating their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen. We also welcome Oluwaseun Johnson, a new Nigeria Partnership Manager.

Our local partners in Nigeria are the Beekeeping Extension Society and BeeFriendly Agricultural Extension Services. We also work with independent trainers.

Sierra Leone

1
Live/in progress

1
Projects
completed/closed
in 2024/5

42

people (37 men, 5 women) from
21 villages trained in tree care

250

trees planted by Bees
Abroad participants



Sierra Leone: Trees for Bees

The Trees for Bees project was the only project in Sierra Leone that closed in 2024/25.

We have included a more significant project summary for Trees for Bees as a number of the communities we work with in Sierra Leone are located in the area this project targeted: the fringes of the Gola Rainforest, the largest-remaining block of Upper Guinean Forest.

Protect the forest, provide forage, create new opportunities

This project aimed to tackle urgent environmental issues related to unsustainable tree harvesting and the protection of endangered species, while also promoting the sustainable use of economic trees vital for the livelihoods of local communities and providing forage for bees.

International expertise, local collaboration

The Trees for Bees project expanded the local tree nursery to include endangered native tree species, with expert advice from Njala, the local university, and UK academic institutions, including Kew Gardens. Together with our partner, Rory's Well, we are raising saplings and encourage people to plant and care for them in their communities via tree champions.



More confidence, a deeper understanding, and increased dedication to protecting the forest

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed gratitude for the hands-on training and the chance to interact directly with field experts. They highlighted the importance of learning about sustainable harvesting and its long-term benefits for their communities.



Several participants mentioned feeling more confident in their ability to identify endangered species and apply sustainable harvesting techniques. They also gained a deeper understanding of the need to balance economic activities with environmental conservation.

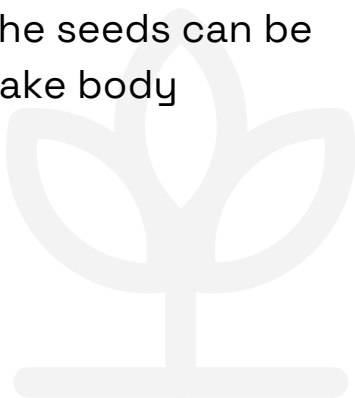
The training significantly influenced participants' attitudes toward forest management. Many remarked that they were now more dedicated to protecting endangered species and ensuring that future generations could benefit from these resources.

REPORT FROM OUR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER FOR SIERRA LEONE

5th March 2025

The workshop in sustainable harvesting techniques and seed collection of threatened and medicinal trees was very successful. Villagers came from over 20 villages in Barri, rangers from the Gola Rainforest and a lecturer from Njala University also attended and shared their expertise.

Each village left with two *Pentaclethra Macrophylla* trees to plant and care for. These trees are called Fawe in Mende or 'The African Oil bean tree'. They provide good forage for bees and the oil pressed from the seeds can be used to combine with wax to make body creams and lotions.



“This tree [*Pentaclethra Macrophylla*] does a lot for us. In January and February the pods fall to the ground where we gather them and take them to the town. We parch the seeds and eat them with cassava or process them into oil which we can rub into our skin.”

-Kefir, one of our lead farmers
40

Katerina Prokopiou (photo: centre), Bees Abroad CEO at The Funding Network award



About the award

Bees Abroad secured £18,770 in funding from The Funding Network to scale this work through a “train-the-trainer” model. Six of the most experienced amputee beekeepers (two from each existing group) are being trained to become community trainers themselves.

With advanced technical, teaching, and business skills, these new trainers will mentor others within amputee and wider farming communities.

This approach ensures local ownership, long-term sustainability, and impact beyond external funding.

The Funding Network award: for Bee Farmers on Cruches

About the project

The civil war in Sierra Leone (1991–2002) left an estimated 27,000 people living with amputations or other disabilities. More than two decades later, many amputees continue to face deep social and economic exclusion. Bees Abroad is working to break this cycle through sustainable beekeeping.

Beekeeping is particularly well-suited to amputee communities. It requires minimal land, can be adapted to different physical abilities, and offers high-value products such as honey and beeswax. It also complements other farming activities, providing a diversified and resilient source of income. Since 2023, Bees Abroad has supported three community groups of amputee beekeepers in rural Sierra Leone.





Bee Farmer profile: Saffa Bockarie

Saffa Bockarie was amputated on below right hand during the decade civil war from 1991 - 2001.

After the war, he was integrated into SLASA to play amputee football as a goal keeper in Kailahun district among the SLASA Kailahun team.

In 2020, SLASA brought Saffa to Freetown for training in sustainable agriculture. After his training, he returned home and started his own garden. In 2023 SLASA was introduced to Beekeeping by Bees Abroad and Saffa was one of the trainees at Tainenahun village.

Since then, Saffa proved himself very well in farming practices which gained him employment to travel to Waterloo and managed a community garden called Permaculture School Project at Maponponie village.

He and his family (his wife Mariatu, and 3 children plus cousin) migrated to engage in farming practices. By now Saffa is managing about 34 bees hives at Permaculture farm in Waterloo.

Beekeeping success

Saffa said that beekeeping has added food value chain in his farming practices. The bees pollinate his vegetables and orchards which increase in yields, while receiving organic honey that make income for his family and farm. His experience in bee farming has further allowed him to train more community members in bee farming. Six amputee farmers have already reported that bees have colonized in their hives constructed early this year.

Saffa is grateful to Bees Abroad as the project provides him capacity, income and farm yield. He is able to take care of his family through beekeeping.



Sierra Leone - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Manager for Sierra Leone, Neil Brent for donating their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen.

Our local partners in Sierra Leone are PAD-SL and SLASA. We also work closely with Rory's Well.



Ghana

364

Participants trained

14

Live/in progress

*7 new projects

5

Projects
completed/closed
in 2024/5

44%

Women



Cashew farmers phase 2

170 participants trained
51% female

Beekeepers were trained in 6 communities. Report from 2024 visit: There is a healthy population of bees, varied forage and reliable colonisation. They have learned to split strong colonies and to collect swarms using a bucket and hive them successfully. Shea and cashew harvests are improved with bees, they have both crops here.



Suhum beekeepers

18 participants trained
44% female

Suhum is an agricultural area 60km from the capital, Accra. Drifting to the city is a real risk for younger people as the majority of locals subsist on "petty trading", including selling water and salt. This project achieved a very good colonisation rate of 80%+. One of the participants has taken on honey distribution to expand their customer base.



**Levite Women
(Obuoadaka)**

17 participants trained
100% female

Levite Beekeepers Association was formed from an existing women's farming group in the community. Around 30% are single parents. Few completed primary school but they have some business skills, including tailoring, hairdressing and now beekeeping.



**Hekenofom
Beekeepers**

25 participants trained
37% female

Hekenofom ('Hope') Beekeepers are located in a remote community in the Eastern Region. All but four of the group are subsistence farmers, two have disabilities, and one member was a honey hunter, now modern beekeeper. After a successful foundation project, the members received further training.



Ghana Case Study - Boabeng-Fiema

The Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary is a well-known landmark in Ghana providing sanctuary to both the bolder Mona monkeys and the arboreal “Black-an’-Whites” (Colobus). The Bees Abroad project worked with communities that live adjacent to the sanctuary.

Unfortunately, damage and theft of food crops sometimes cause significant issues for the local subsistence farmers, reducing food security and cash incomes.

There are also high rates of extreme poverty in the local population. This project was designed to offer a livelihood option that could take advantage of eco-tourism



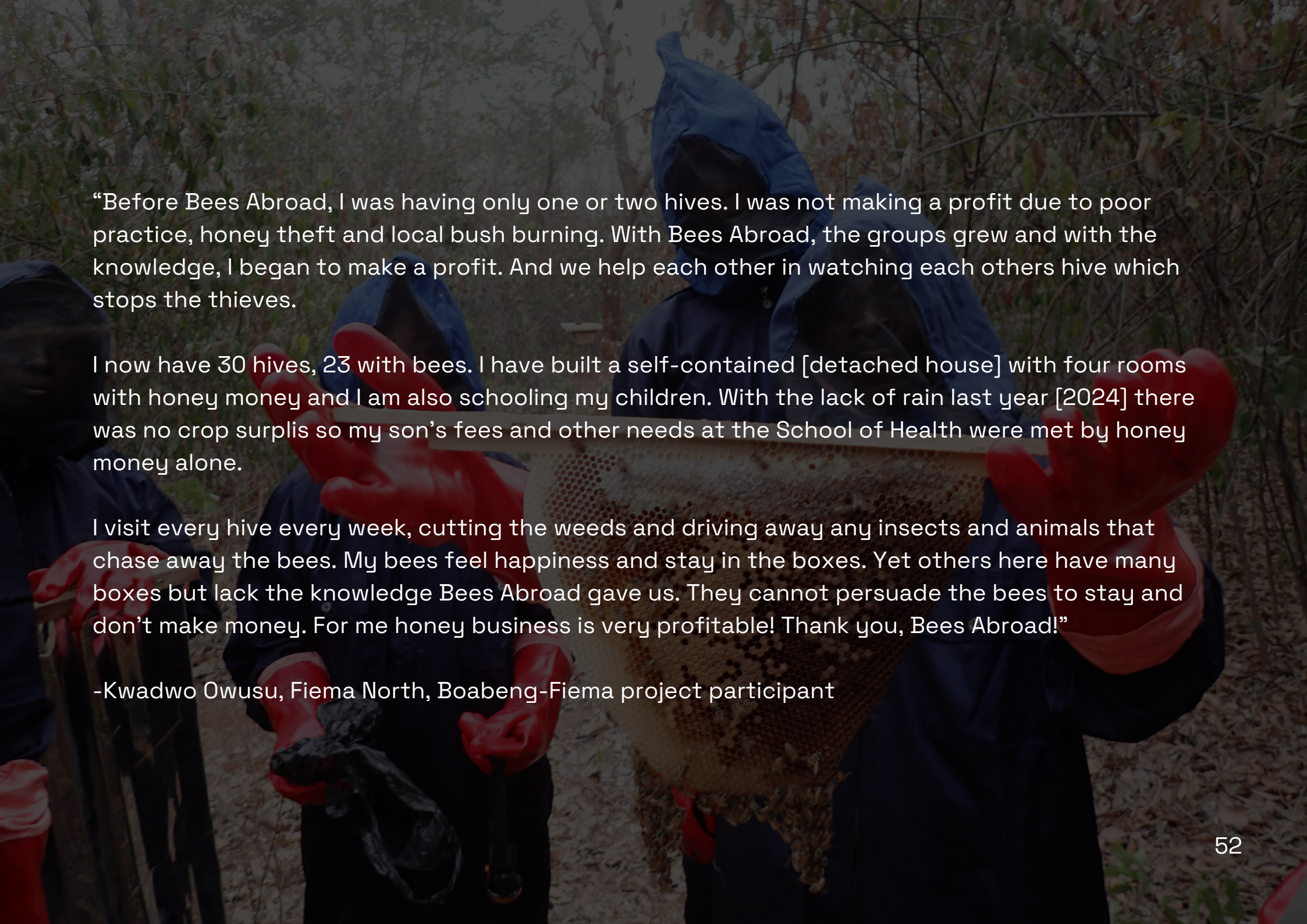
In 2019, Bees Abroad began with participants in Boabeng and Fiema communities by the forest. There had been a degree of beekeeping training six years prior by non-specialist US NGO but little benefit came of it. Each group of fifteen participants was supported with theory training, hive building and apiary siting.

Their very first challenge was drought which resulted in bushfire sweeping through the Fiema apiary. Fortunately, fire lookouts were on duty daily to protect the forest and there was enough time for Fiema's newly trained group members to move the hives out of danger, an impressive undertaking for new beekeepers.



“Feedback and project development visits to Boabeng, and more so Fiema, have always been unforgettable! At Fiema, while children peek curiously through the church windows and hundreds of stingless bees crowded round the door jambs where they live, the group took these opportunities to voice all their hopes, fears and challenges for the project and stirring debates ensued but thankfully always in a forward direction! As this project winds down the two groups dream of developing a honey processing centre for their members and beekeepers in the surrounding area”

**-Trisha Marlow, Bees Abroad Ghana Partnership
Manager**

A person wearing a blue protective suit and red gloves is holding a large, rectangular wooden frame covered in bees. The person is standing in a field with trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

“Before Bees Abroad, I was having only one or two hives. I was not making a profit due to poor practice, honey theft and local bush burning. With Bees Abroad, the groups grew and with the knowledge, I began to make a profit. And we help each other in watching each others hive which stops the thieves.

I now have 30 hives, 23 with bees. I have built a self-contained [detached house] with four rooms with honey money and I am also schooling my children. With the lack of rain last year [2024] there was no crop surplus so my son's fees and other needs at the School of Health were met by honey money alone.

I visit every hive every week, cutting the weeds and driving away any insects and animals that chase away the bees. My bees feel happiness and stay in the boxes. Yet others here have many boxes but lack the knowledge Bees Abroad gave us. They cannot persuade the bees to stay and don't make money. For me honey business is very profitable! Thank you, Bees Abroad!”

-Kwadwo Owusu, Fiema North, Boabeng-Fiema project participant



**Our 2025 Spring fundraising campaign:
Collaborate for Climate**

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING

**Floods. Drought. Wildfires.
Destructive winds.**

“About 80% of the global population most at risk from crop failures and hunger from climate change are in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, where farming families are disproportionately poor and vulnerable.”

-The World Bank

**WE NEED CLIMATE
RESILIENCE. NOW.**

OUR BIGGEST EVER SPRING CAMPAIGN

We raised nearly £20,000 in our biggest ever Spring campaign and first independent match-funding campaign. The funds raised are allocated towards two climate resilience projects in Ghana:

Kumbungu Cluster

The project aims to improve climate resilience, via diversified livelihoods, and food resilience through beekeeping.

Dome beekeepers

This project aims to improve food security, livelihood resilience and help build social cohesion through beekeeping within communities hosting climate refugees.

Ghana - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Managers for Ghana: Trisha Marlow, Dawn Williams and Paul Bloch, who donate their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen.

Our local partners in Ghana are GRTN (Ghana Regional Trainers Network), Gyieba Ayeboo and Ashanti Development.



Rwanda

7

Live/in progress
*6 new projects



1

Projects
completed/closed
in 2024/5

30

Participants trained



66%

Women

Rwanda Projects

In 2024/5 one project came to a close in Rwanda: Love Rwanda. However, there has since been approval for a second phase of this project to build on the successes.

2024/5 saw significant activity for Bees Abroad in Rwanda with six new projects approved by the investment panel. One of those projects, Gatunda Youth Beekeeping, is featured in the case study on the subsequent pages of this section.



Love Rwanda

30 participants trained
66% female

In this project, Bees Abroad worked together with a local NGO, Love Rwanda and a local beekeeping co-operative to train a group of marginalised people living near Nyungwe Forest, which provides good forage for the bees. The project was so successful a phase 2 has been developed to integrate a large group of marginalised young people.

Rwanda Case Study

Gatunda Youth beekeeping

Rwanda's youthful population presents both an opportunity and a challenge. With over 60% of the population under the age of 25, rural communities face intense pressure to create meaningful employment for young people. Limited access to education, vocational training, and formal job opportunities leaves many rural youth trapped in cycles of underemployment and poverty.

These challenges are particularly visible in communities surrounding Umutara Deaf School, where unemployment among young people has historically contributed to social and economic tensions between the school and neighbouring villages.



In 2025, Bees Abroad started a new project that builds on the success of the Umutara Deaf School. The project expands the beekeeping activities at the school to include unemployed non-deaf youth from neighbouring villages.



An initial group of 22 young people (12 men and 10 women) from Gatunda and Rukomo villages began training in May 2025. Only four had any prior experience of beekeeping. Training was delivered over 10 days across five weeks, allowing participants to continue managing daily responsibilities while gaining practical and theoretical skills.

On the first day of training, participants observed deaf students confidently working in the apiary, an experience that several trainees described as eye-opening. This comment should be understood in context: people with disabilities, including deafness, face significant stigma in Rwanda and many other countries across Africa, where they are seen as ‘consumers of care’, unable to contribute to society. For a deaf person to not only be skilled but also be teaching is a significant thing for many to see.



“Before this project, many of us were unemployed and lacked hope for the future. Through the training and the beekeeping equipment we received, we have acquired practical skills and confidence to sustain our activities.”

**- Member of the Gatunda Project Youth
Beekeeping Group**

Both village groups, Gatunda and Rukomo, have established apiaries, installed active beehives, and demonstrated strong teamwork and commitment to modern beekeeping practices. Collaboration between the groups has strengthened problem-solving skills, built confidence, and increased interest in beekeeping among other local young people.

Rwanda - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Managers for Rwanda, Dawn Williamson and Paul Bloch for donating their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen.

Our partners in Rwanda are Umutara Deaf School, Love Rwanda, and Eddy Rangira, an independent trainer who leads Love Rwanda. The training for Nyabihu School for the Deaf was delivered by Pacifique from Umutara Deaf School.



Kenya

31

Participants
supported

8

Live/in progress.
*2 new projects

2

Projects
completed/closed
in 2024/5

35%

Women



Kinii Sustainable Initiative (KISI)

26 participants trained
33% female

KISI is a community-owned initiative made up of several groups. Bees Abroad worked with KISI farmers on the importance of bees and bee products and provided a bench saw and sewing machine to support the group to make their own suits and hives to expand their operations and support the groups it serves.

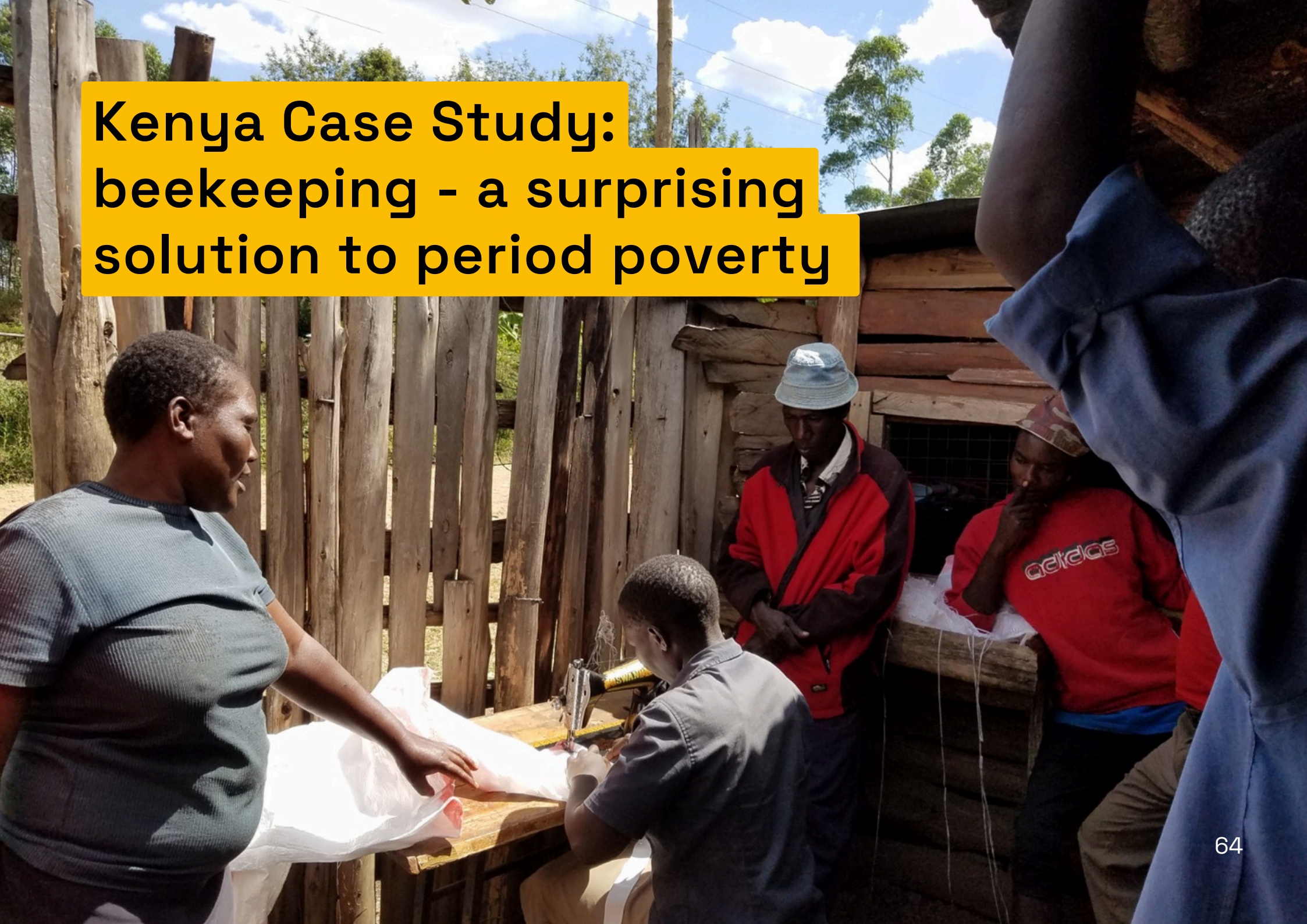


Bees4Kenya

5 participants (staff)
60% female

Bees Abroad first started working with CERA Rights after being awarded a large grant from the UK government. After that project was complete, Bees Abroad supported CERA to develop a business providing beekeeping expertise, Bees4Kenya, which folded. However, the staff remain freelance trainers with Bees Abroad.

Kenya Case Study: beekeeping - a surprising solution to period poverty





In 2018, Bees Abroad began working with KISI, a local NGO in Kenya.

Nearly six years later in August 2024, a Bees Abroad Partnership Manager visited the KISI group and they had a surprising update – they told us how they’ve been using beekeeping to help tackle period poverty.

In Kenya, period poverty affects around 65% of women and girls, it means not having the basic sanitary products to manage a period.

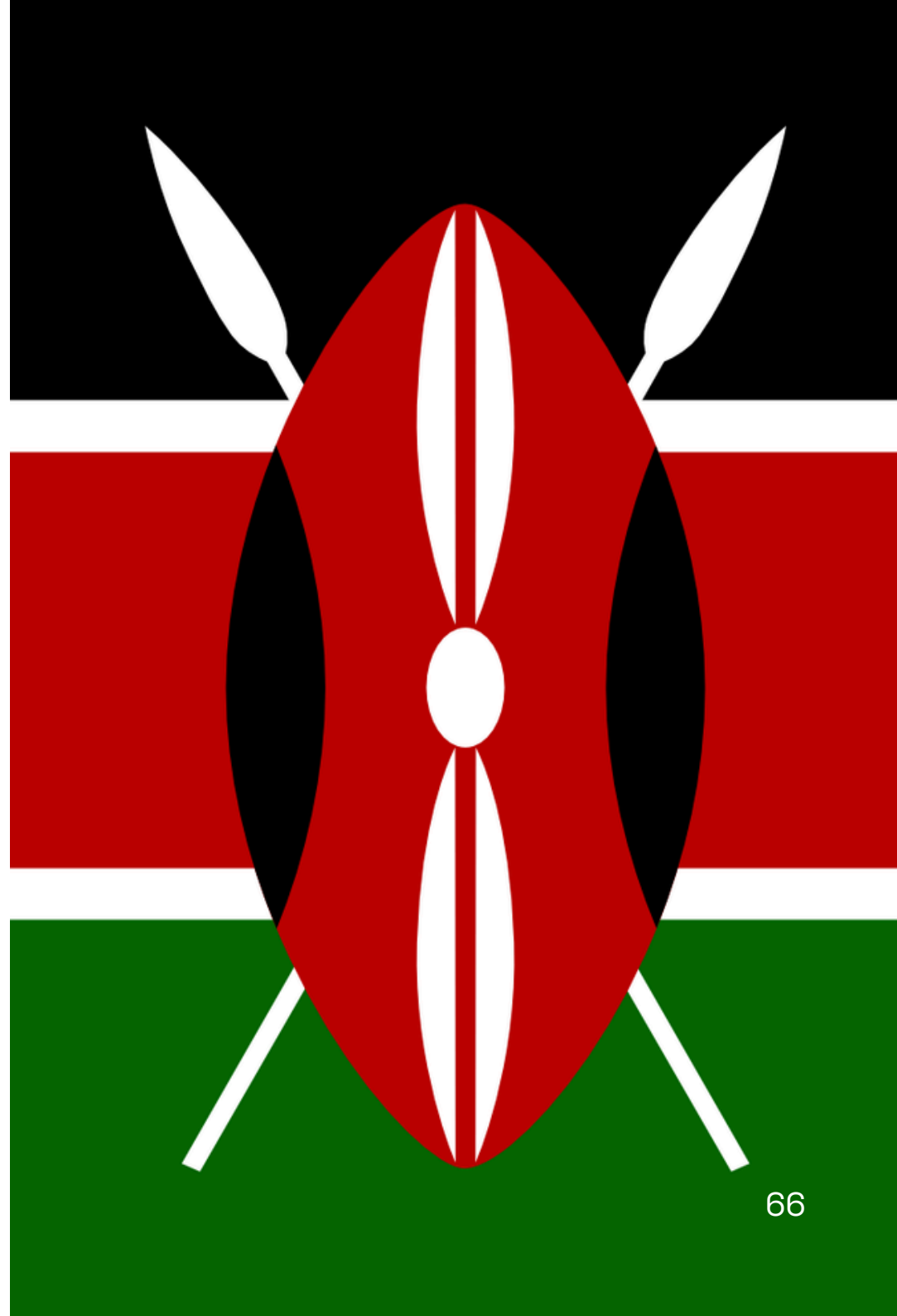
KISI saw an opportunity to use their beekeeping materials and income to help tackle this problem. Using the bench saw, over-lock sewing machine, and training on how to use them, KISI have been producing and selling hives and bee suits.

With revenue from the sales, and using the sewing machine provided by Bees Abroad, KISI members are making reusable period pads. These are donated to local women and girls unable to afford sanitary products.

Kenya - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Managers for Kenya, John & Mary Home, David Evans, Geoff Redwood and Franjo Toic and volunteer Veronica Brown who donate their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen.

Our local partner in Kenya is Bees 4 Kenya (under the local NGO, CERA Rights).



Tanzania

0

Live/in progress
One project is in
design phase (2026)

1

Projects
completed/closed
in 2024/5

12

Participants
supported

100%

Women



Mama Hive: from small-scale handicrafts to national social enterprise

Bees Abroad first began working with the group now known as Mama Hive in 2016. At that time, they were called Upendo wa Mama (“Mother’s Love”), and they had come together not as a business, but as a support network for women and children with albinism.

Albinism is a genetic skin condition, but in Tanzania and many other parts of the world, it carries a profound risk. People with albinism face intense stigma and very real danger due to persistent beliefs linking the condition to curses and the use of body parts in witchcraft. For the women of Upendo wa Mama, coming together was first and foremost about safety, solidarity and survival.

A different starting point

Unlike most Bees Abroad projects, Mama Hive didn't start with beekeeping. Instead, it drew on Bees Abroad's wider expertise in value addition, livelihoods and social enterprise development. The group was well placed to work with beeswax, a by-product often undervalued by beekeepers, many of whom prefer to sell wax wholesale and focus on honey production. Local supply was readily available, including from another Bees Abroad project on Kome Island.

With training and ongoing support from Bees Abroad, the group began developing beeswax value-added products. What started small quickly grew. By 2020, they were producing a wide and impressive range of items including beeswax balms, soaps, polishes, Nyuki Stix, batik products and a variety of candles. Alongside this, they began purchasing honey from local beekeeping groups, bottling and labelling it for local sale: creating a new income stream while strengthening relationships within the wider beekeeping community.





Becoming Mama Hive

A major milestone came in 2024, when, with the support of Bees Abroad, the group became a registered national NGO and social enterprise: Mama Hive.



2024 saw a series of foundational successes achieved with financial support from the 2023 Bees Abroad Christmas Big Give:

- Opened a bank account and put formal financial systems in place.
- Secured office space for employees and a dedicated display shop.
- Completed full branding, including a comprehensive brand guidelines document.
- Undertook marketing and storytelling training.
- Designed and launched their website, mamahive.org.
- Introduced accounting systems to track income, expenditure and profit.





Launching and expanding the Mama Hive brand

Mama Hive launched their new brand and opened their shop and offices in Mwanza in late 2024.

The group then took their launch from local to national level. Their Secretary and Beekeeping Manager, Justina, travelled over 1,000 kilometres by bus to the capital, Dar es Salaam, to sell at the Artisan Market. At the same time, another member, Aikande, travelled with Bees Abroad Partnership Manager, Rachel Monger, on a 13-hour bus journey to Arusha for the Christmas Market there. Both trips were hugely successful: products sold out and sales targets were exceeded.

In 2025, Mama Hive continued to evolve, introducing a series of workshops alongside their product lines. Their shop in Mwanza is located close to a popular tourist hotspot, providing a strong market for both products and learning experiences.

Mama Hive: impact that goes beyond employment

The impact of Mama Hive goes far beyond employment. The group was initially established to provide mutual support to those with Albanism. They are ambassadors for Albanism, proving it is not a curse.

The group has also established a savings and loans scheme, and through shared learning and pooled profits, members have been able to start small enterprises of their own, pay school fees, and cover medical costs for their children.

In several cases, this support has been life-saving. One woman in the group, who lives with diabetes, faced the loss of her leg, if not her life, when a severe foot infection worsened. The cost of treatment and medication was far beyond what she could afford alone. Through Mama Hive, the group was able to provide the financial support needed for urgent care. She is now walking again and able to return to work.

To learn more about Mama Hive, visit www.mamahive.org or follow them on Instagram @mamahive.tz



Tanzania - thank yous

A big thank you to our Partnership Managers for Tanzania, Rachel Monger and Emyr Jenkins, who donated their time and significant expertise to make these projects happen.

Our local partners in Tanzania are Emmanuel International and BMCC (Mama Hive).





Organisational Activity

Our new website

Creating Lasting Change through Beekeeping

We help communities build sustainable livelihoods through beekeeping.

We launched our new website in 2024. The website was built by a volunteer with experience in website design. The costs incurred during the development were covered by a donation specifically made to support the website development. Alongside the website, a Notion information base was developed.

We have an impressive amount of interesting information on our projects past, present and future and this database better enables us to share this information with our supporters. This approach also saved significantly on website development as the free Notion database can be accessed via the website.

Hive Twinning program update

About the program

The Hive Twinning program was launched in September 2023. The program was established to provide a way to directly connect supporters and Bees Abroad beekeeping communities and secure dedicated funding for projects.

Update

The Hive Twinning program is available for individuals, businesses, corporates and BKAs. The program has been particularly popular with businesses and corporates who often fully fund a project that aligns with their values.

What is Hive Twinning?

Hive twinning is a living demonstration of solidarity with rural communities across Africa. Directly support a community to take up beekeeping, building a livelihood that improves quality of life and supports the local environment.

How does it work?

- 1 Select a project that resonates with you.
- 2 Receive your welcome pack and certificate.
- 3 Enjoy direct, exclusive updates relating to your twin project.

Different Hive Twin plans are available for individuals, BKAs and business and corporates.

Expanding our Board of Trustees to support organisational development

In 2024, we began a recruitment drive to expand the board of trustees. This expansion aimed to bring in specific, highly qualified expertise to support the further development of Bees Abroad as an organisation.

The recruitment drive was led pro bono by one of our Partnership Managers, who is a professional recruiter. The drive resulted in seven new trustees joining the board.

Developments supported by trustees

The trustees have supported the development of the following strategies and processes in 2024/5: Fundraising, Monitoring & Evaluation, Safeguarding, Project Design and Project Approval.

“The response to our search for new trustees was amazing. Our board now numbers eleven, each with experience and skills relevant to our work. Also, it now includes members from the countries where we work and in-depth experience of projects for women.”

-Richard Ridler, Chair of Trustees



Our trustees

Richard Ridler - Chair of trustees

Richard brings experience from a career in commercial project management, sales and marketing. Both Richard and his wife Jane are Master Beekeepers and Partnership Managers for Uganda.

Andrew MacCormack - Strategy

Andrew is a former investment banker and renewable energy investor, principally in the biomass industry. Having specialised in developing markets whilst at JP Morgan, he is interested in the development of social enterprises to alleviate poverty.

Neil Brent - Treasurer

Neil was already a Bees Abroad project manager in Sierra Leone when he joined the trustees in 2018. Recently retired from a career in business analytics and management accountancy for the NHS he is responsible for financial matters.

Boluwaji Durogbola - Impact and M&E

Boluwaji began his beekeeping journey in 2009, receiving advanced training from Bees Abroad in 2019 and becoming a trainer by 2021. Bolu is an experienced agribusiness professional and relocated to the UK to work in this field. Bolu is also a Partnership Manager for Nigeria.

Bhagyashree Mandke - Fundraising

Bhagyashree is an Economist and brings with her over 25 years of experience and a proven track record across public, private and International NGO sectors in the fields of education and public health.

Our trustees cont.

Nicole Vettise - Fundraising

Nicole, CAIA, is a seasoned investment professional with over 25 years of experience in international asset management, specializing in strategic growth, sustainability, and asset raising.

Peter George - Project Design

Peter holds an MA in Natural Sciences from Cambridge and an MBA, specialising in International Enterprise. He recently retired from an international career managing businesses supply chains and is an experienced beekeeper.

Daniel Peck - Impact and M&E

Dan is a senior strategist, consultant, and entrepreneur with 17 years of global experience in management consulting, investment banking, government consulting, and social impact investing.

Tina Grear - Fundraising

Tina is currently COO of an international health charity – IHP – providing medicines to millions of patients in some of the most vulnerable communities worldwide. Tina has experience building and running effective organisations across governance, business planning, fundraising, HR and risk management.

Katharine Thoday - Project Design

Katharine is a sustainability professional with extensive international experience in natural resource management. She has worked for the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Cambridge University and the Asian Development Bank.



John & Mary Home

In Memory of John and Mary Home

John and Mary joined Bees Abroad in 2005. Their involvement was to last two decades and leave a lasting legacy.

A year after joining, at a critical moment for the organisation, John stepped forward as Chair. He brought a wealth of experience and pedigree in beekeeping, having also twice served as Chairman of the UK Bee Farmers Association. His award-winning Fosse Way Honey was served at the Ritz and found its way onto the tables of several members of the Royal Family.

John brought exceptional beekeeping expertise. A highly respected practitioner, he taught practical skills such as constructing and cutting top bars, recognising disease, and managing colonies. Above all, he instilled confidence in the beekeepers he trained. His teaching was calm, methodical and encouraging, rooted in a deep love of the craft.



Mary brought a complementary perspective shaped by her nursing background and knowledge of community health. On her first visit to Kenya, she observed that many women were excluded from beekeeping initiatives. From that point forward, she championed inclusive practice, ensuring that women were actively involved and able to benefit directly from projects.

John and Mary shaped the spirit and direction of Bees Abroad up until their passing.



“We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear mentors and friends, John and Mary. They walked closely with us in Kenya, guiding farmers and pastoral households to improve their livelihoods through beekeeping. They gave so much of themselves — sponsoring training, supporting accreditation, and helping design impactful community and school projects. But more than their work, it was their kindness, care, and parental love that touched our hearts. John and Mary reminded us that small beginnings can lead to great transformation. Their legacy lives on in the lives they touched and in the fire they lit within us. Rest in peace, our mentors. We will carry your vision forward for the beekeepers of Kenya.”

- Joseph Gitonga, Kenya



They were not loud leaders. They led with quiet determination, integrity, and kindness. Their focus was always clear: why we do what we do, how we do it, and who it helps. They understood that sustainable development is built not just on technical knowledge, but on trust, respect, and relationships.

Their legacy lives on in every trained beekeeper, every thriving hive, every women's enterprise group, and every volunteer who continues the work they nurtured so carefully.

They showed us what quiet leadership looks like: steady, generous, and rooted in love. All of us at Bees Abroad are so proud to carry on their work. Their legacy is with us.

Thank you to Veronica Brown, friend of John and Mary and former Bees Abroad volunteer, for the words and photos.

New volunteer: Mark's journey joining Bees Abroad

"I first encountered Bees Abroad at the Wax Chandlers Hall in London when attending a lecture in April 2025 discussing climate change, resilience and beekeeping presented by Katharine Thoday and Bolu Durogbola. Bolu then described the difference that Bees Abroad has made in many countries within Africa, especially by empowering disadvantaged groups to make an income. This resonated with me and Richard and Jane Ridler were able to suggest ways that I could become involved. Things progressed rapidly and I was soon a Project Manager for the South Rwenzori region in western Uganda.



My motivation was a desire to make a difference in retirement to help others through my new enthusiasm in beekeeping. I was impressed that Bees Abroad is able to donate the vast majority of its income directly to the various projects and was mainly staffed with volunteers. In Africa the products of beekeeping are very valuable and the process is fairly straightforward, so otherwise disadvantaged groups can be helped to start beekeeping. Equipment and training are provided so that after a few years, the groups can be self-sufficient and profitable into the future, a great opportunity which is exceptionally well received.



(Mark's visit to Uganda as a Bees Abroad Partnership Manager was self-funded. Our amazing volunteers donate both their time and money to support the projects they work with)

Nine months after first expressing an interest my wife and I were being hosted by a lovely group of novice beekeepers in deepest rural Uganda. The aim was to understand the challenges of beekeeping in a completely different environment, whilst checking that Bees Abroad's donations were being used in the most effective manner.

I didn't expect that they would be so overwhelmingly positive and grateful for our help, nor that rural Uganda would be so beautiful. The five incubator projects that I have helped to initiate have everything in place and now awaiting their bees, one hive had been colonised within a few days of being sited! Their priorities for any income generated are schooling, nutrition for children and medicines. I look forward to visiting again in a year or two to check on their progress and to reunite with new friends who are already sending photos of their progress.

It was very much a working visit but life-enhancing and confirmed to me the exceptional value that Bees Abroad provides to disadvantaged people in rural Africa."

-Mark Wilcox, Uganda Partnership Manager⁸⁴

Supporter Spotlight: Bees Abroad Patron, Sarah Wyndham Lewis

Honey Sommelier, author and co-founder of Bermondsey Street Bees, Sarah Wyndham Lewis, has been a passionate supporter of Bees Abroad since 2023. In 2024, we were delighted to welcome her formally as a Patron of Bees Abroad.

Passionate honey expert, ecologist, writer and speaker, Sarah Wyndham Lewis is an internationally renowned Honey Sommelier, working with artisan beekeepers all over the world. She is regularly featured in national newspapers and radio speaking on the topic of honey and bees. She is a member of the Guild of Food Writers and Slow Food UK. Deeply concerned with the lives of honeybees, Sarah also champions the wild bee species which underpin biodiversity. Her latest book is 'The Wild Bee Handbook' (Quadrille, 2023).



“Then I started reading the [Bees Abroad] human stories, and that was so wonderful. I talked to various people in Bees Abroad, it was really transparent, and I realised how genuinely impressive the whole setup is...You’re really the hardworking grassroots charity, so I know that every penny I help raise goes to the people I now care about really deeply.”

-Sarah Wyndham Lewis



Donations and fundraising

Donors Thanks

We're so very grateful for all the support we get. It's difficult to thank everyone properly, we've tried our best to cover the headliners below:

Individuals

To our individual donors, we really couldn't do it without you. Individual donations accounted for 43% of our 2025 income. We really do depend on our relationships and donations from individual supporters, thank you.

Trusts, foundations and other charities

In total, donations from Trusts, foundations and other charities account for 47% of our funding in 2025. These funds are responsible for much of the work we do. Thank you for making our work possible.



Donations from Beekeeping Associations BKAs

We received donations from BKAs around the country including the ones listed. We're very grateful for the support from fellow beeks, a big thank you to all of you.

- West Sussex BKA (2025)
- Warwickshire BKA (2025)
- Warwick & Leamington Spa BKA (2025)
- Wirral BKA (2024)
- Welsh BKA (2024)
- Tavistock BKA (2024)
- Swindon & District BKA (2025)
- Surrey BKA (2024)
- Suffolk BKA (2025)
- Southern District (IOM) BKA (2025)
- Stockport BKA (2024)
- Shipston-on-Stour BKA (2025)
- South Gloucestershire BKA (2024)
- Reigate BKA (2025)
- Preston & District BKA (2024)
- Nottinghamshire BKA (2024 & 2025)
- North Staffordshire BKA (2025)
- Northamptonshire BKA (2024)
- Northamptonshire BKA (2024)
- North Herts BKA (2024)
- North East Worcestershire BKA (2024 & 2025)
- Newbury & District BKA(2024)
- Melksham & District BKA (2024)
- Ludlow & District BKA (2025)
- Lancashire & North West BKA (2024)
- Inverness-shire BKA (2025)
- High Weald BKA (2024)
- Dunblane & Stirling BKA (2025)
- Dover and District BKA (2025)
- Dengie Hundred & Maldon BKA (2024)
- Chichester BKA (2024)
- Cheshire BKA (2024 & 2025)
- Chelmsford BKA (2025)
- Blackpool & Fylde BKA (2024)
- Avon BKA (2025)

Corporates and Businesses

We are beyond grateful for the generous support of a prestigious group of corporates and businesses.

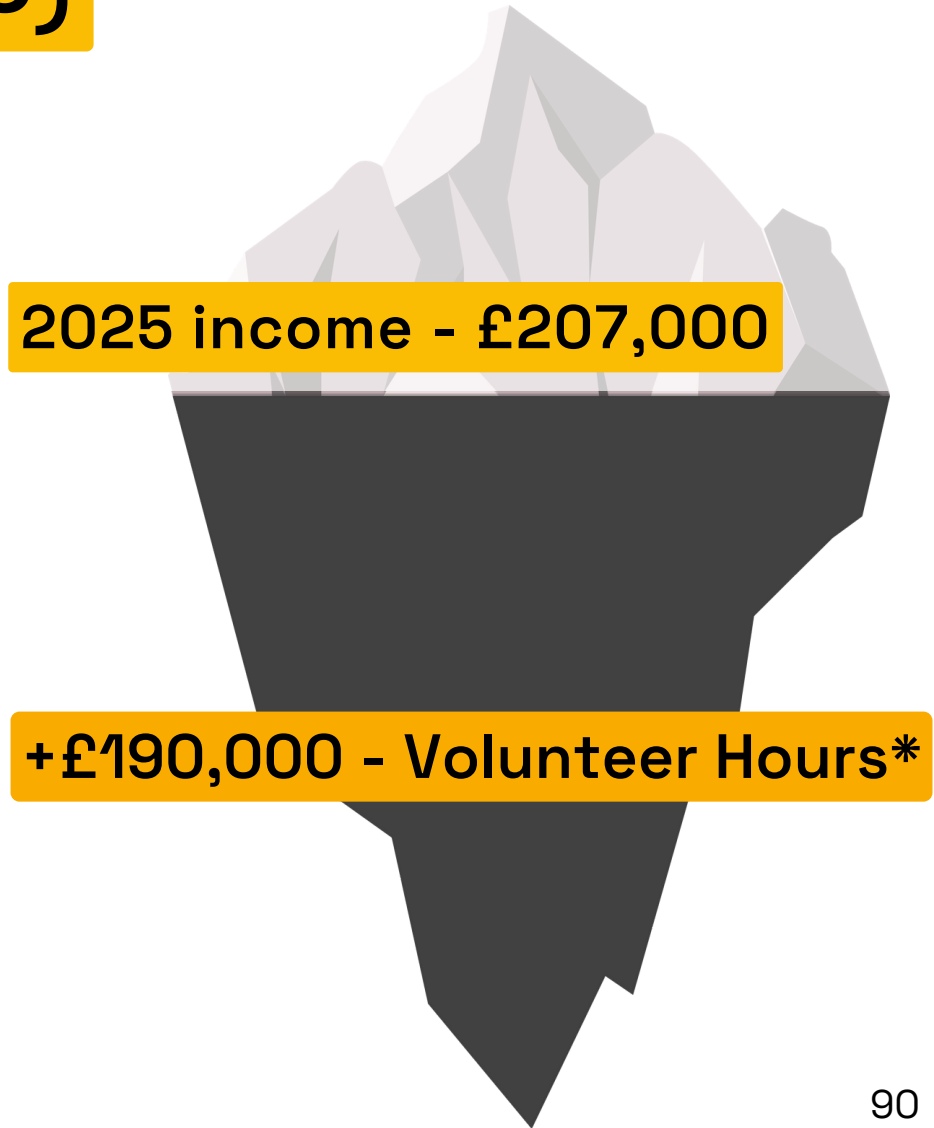


THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
WAX CHANDLERS



Equivalent donations in time and gifts in kind (2025)

The majority of the Bees Abroad team is made up of volunteers. Our volunteers are highly qualified and experienced individuals. Our in-country teams that deliver the work are paid, the coordination and project management by Partnership Managers is done on a pro-bono basis. This is why we are able to fund and run a large portfolio of projects across multiple countries on a small budget. Our trustees are very hands-on, often working on the operational side of organisational development in addition to providing guidance. We have volunteers working across other aspects of both the project and organisational work. All these volunteers are the beating heart of Bees Abroad.



2025 income - £207,000

+£190,000 - Volunteer Hours*

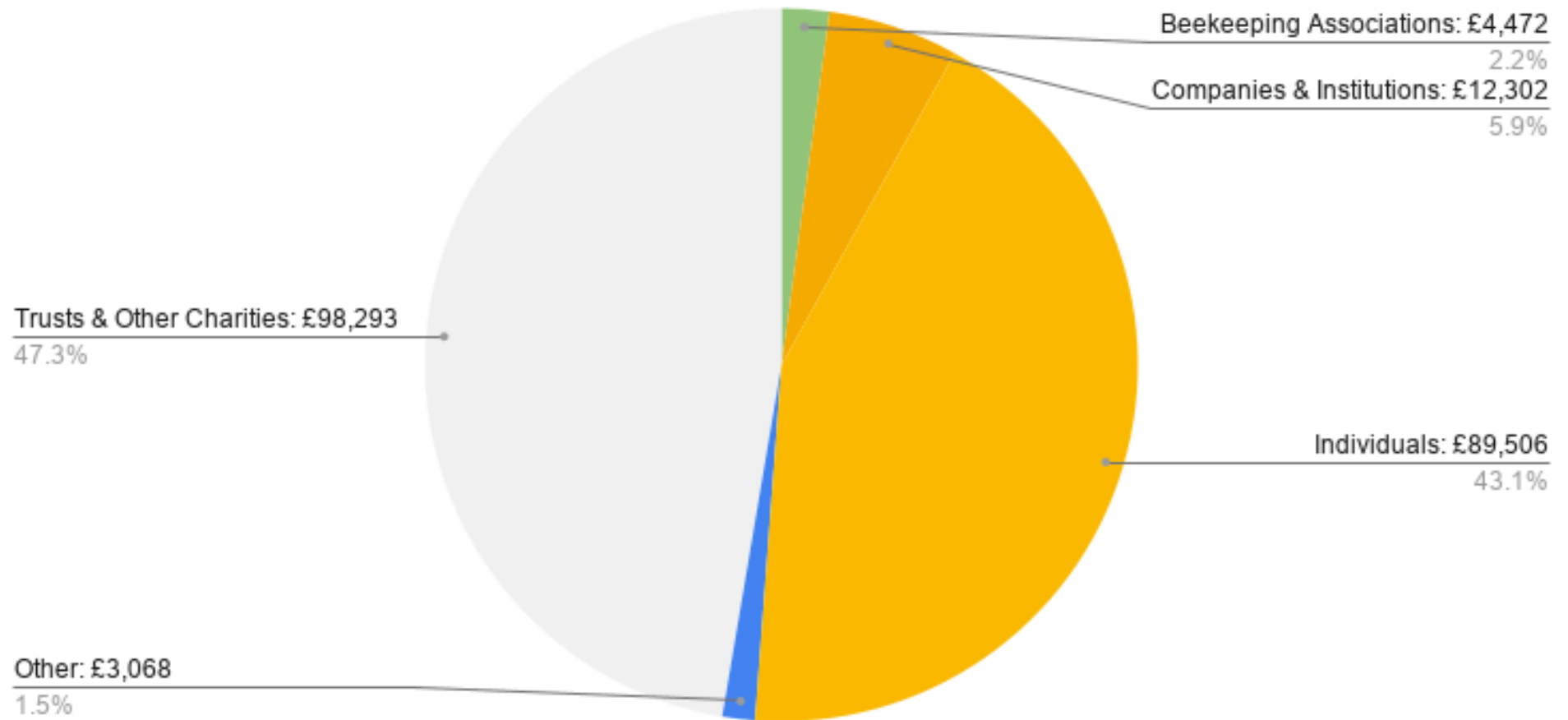
Volunteer spotlight: Charlotte bookkeeping - XERO Implementation



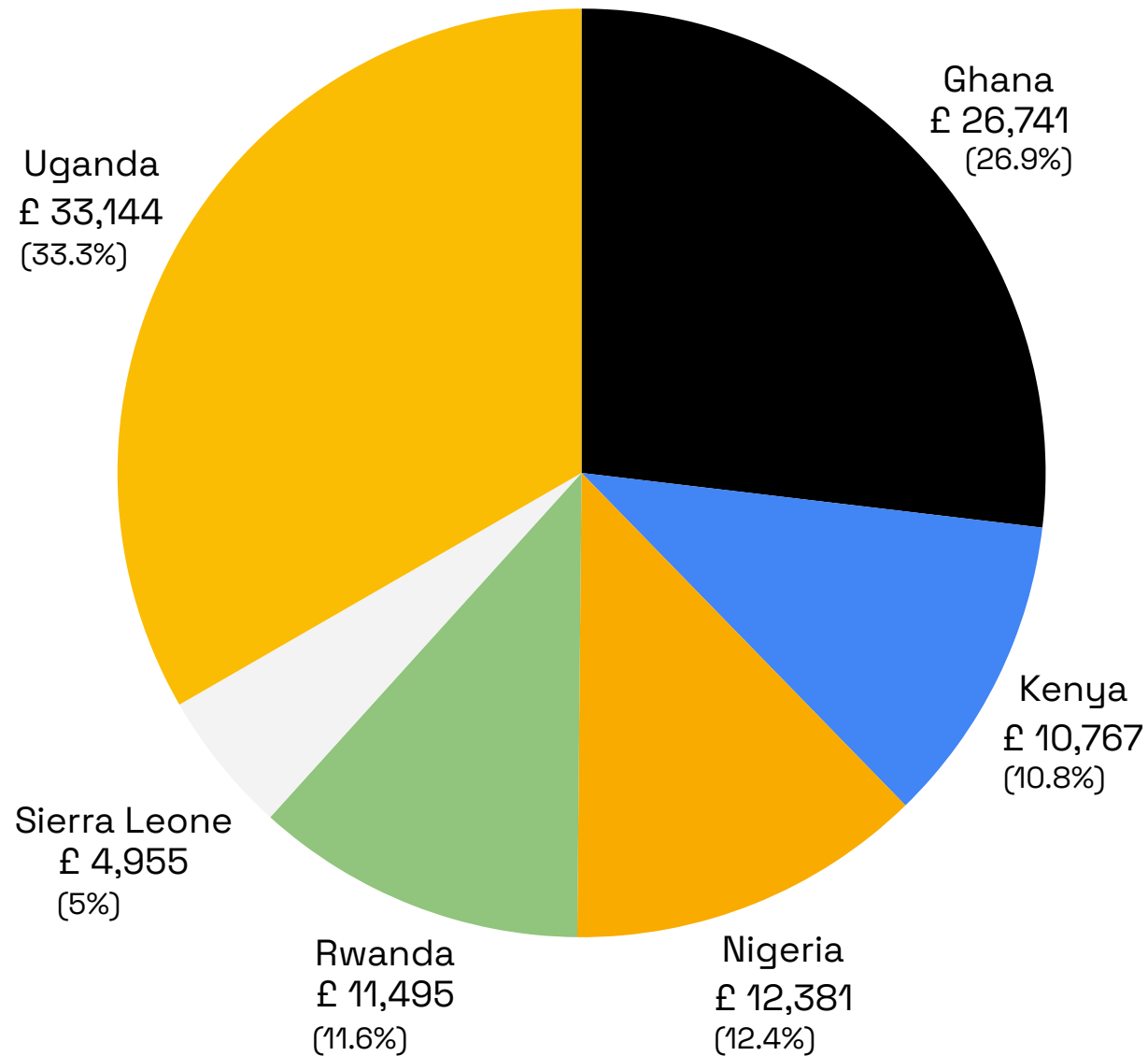
“Hi, I’m Charlotte Bickett, and I’ve joined Bees Abroad as a Volunteer Bookkeeper. I am AAT Level 3 qualified and have worked in various finance roles over the past 8 years. I am currently working towards my Level 4 in order to become a qualified accountant. I have experience with different accounting software, Excel, and financial reporting. I’m excited to be part of the team and to contribute to this exciting organisation.”



2025 Income by Source



2025 Project Spend by Country



Looking forward

Project developments

We have 45 live projects in the portfolio, 18 of which are new in 2024/25. We value all our projects, every single one of them, from the ambitious social enterprises to the small, isolated rural community projects. Each of our projects works with real people in some of the most challenging social, economic and environmental conditions. We don't have space to profile all active and prospective projects, but here are some highlights of live projects not featured elsewhere in the report:

- Bulhalho is an NGO and Social Enterprise supporting 19 independent beekeeping district groups in Uganda. We are supporting them in their 5 year plan of transitioning from 90% income from grants to 90% income from honey sales.
- We are in conversations with Wild Survivors to develop a strategic elephant 'bee fence' project in Tanzania.

Organisational developments

Fundraising continues to be a major focus for the core team, and we will continue with our blended approach of individual giving, Big Give campaigns, grants and business & corporate funding. We are actively seeking support to manage our grant applications. We are currently in a drive to further strengthen our Monitoring and Evaluation processes and data to better track impact and support adaptive management.

We welcomed 7 new Partnership Managers in 2024 and 2025. Partnership Manager is a volunteer position and can be a limiting factor to the number of projects we can deliver. We are particularly keen to recruit new Partnership Managers for Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria.



Project design

We will continue with our two main project types: community development and 'multi-year strategic', e.g. Social Enterprises, national and longitudinal projects. Moving forward, we will be:

- 1) Focusing on geographic clusters of communities, so the number of projects might decrease as more projects include clusters of communities.
- 2) Working in partnerships and in longer-term projects, e.g. with Wild Survivors on elephant bee fences across Tanzania, with women-focused economic justice and empowerment organisations, and TIST tree planting across Uganda.



Thank you!

A big Bees Abroad thank you to all those who donated and supported us in 2024 and 2025. We are so grateful for our amazing supporters, without which none of this work would be possible.





www.beesabroad.org

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Bees Abroad is a registered charity in England and Wales No: 1108464