



Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc.

End-of-Year Report

2024



Executive Summary

Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. is dedicated to advocating for the rights of women, children, and marginalized groups. The organization strives to empower individuals through education, support services, and advocacy, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected. We aim to create a society where women, children, and marginalized individuals are empowered, free from violence, and have equal access to opportunities, justice, and social support systems.

Message from the Board of Directors

As we reflect on the year 2024, we are filled with immense gratitude and pride in our collective efforts. This year has been one of remarkable achievements and meaningful impact, as we worked tirelessly to support vulnerable communities, advocate for systemic change, and empower individuals to reclaim their voices. From providing safe housing for domestic violence victims to delivering counseling services and distributing food to over 1,100 beneficiaries, our work has touched lives in profound ways. The completion of key initiatives, such as training under the UN Women Spotlight Initiative and the ongoing development of our Agro-processing facility, underscores the progress we have made toward our mission.

Despite these successes, the year was not without its challenges. Rising demand for our services, coupled with resource constraints, tested our resilience and creativity. Yet, these obstacles only strengthened our resolve to advocate for justice and equality. As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our programs, deepening our partnerships, and creating sustainable change. We extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, volunteers, and beneficiaries for their unwavering support and trust in our work. Your contributions fuel our mission and inspire us to continue striving for a safer, more equitable Saint Lucia. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive future.

Summary of the Year's Major Achievements, Challenges, and Progress

In 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. made significant strides in addressing critical social issues, empowering vulnerable communities, and advocating for justice and equality. The organization successfully implemented impactful projects, including the construction of an Agro-processing facility, the provision of safe housing for domestic violence victims, and capacity-building initiatives for frontline workers under the UN Women Spotlight Initiative. With over 1,100 individuals benefiting from food distribution programs and 172 clients receiving counseling, the organization demonstrated its unwavering commitment to supporting women, children, and marginalized groups. Despite these successes, challenges such as limited funding, rising demand for services, and navigating systemic barriers underscored the need for sustained advocacy and resource mobilization.

These achievements would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our stakeholders, partners, and donors. We extend heartfelt gratitude to our funding agencies,

including the Inter-American Foundation, UN Women, Equality Fund, and others, whose contributions have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. We also acknowledge the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners, whose unwavering commitment has strengthened our impact. Together, we remain steadfast in our vision of creating a safer, more equitable Saint Lucia.

Overview of Projects

Project Highlights for 2023–2024

Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. undertook a variety of impactful projects between 2023 and 2024, addressing key issues such as gender-based violence, education, psychosocial support, and community development. Below is a summary of the completed and ongoing initiatives:

1. **Agro Processing Facility:** In collaboration with multiple funding agencies, including the Inter-American Foundation, Taiwanese Embassy, and GEF/SGP UNDP, this project focused on the design, construction, and equipping of an Agro-processing facility. A training component funded by the French Embassy has been completed, while construction remains ongoing.
2. **Commonwealth Project for QuickBooks and Communication:** Supported by the Commonwealth Foundation, this project involves the procurement of QuickBooks software and training for accounting staff, alongside the preparation of a communication plan.
3. **Psychosocial Support in High-Crime Areas:** The CFLI Project, funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, provides psychosocial support to communities in Bruceville and Mange, Vieux Fort, affected by high crime and gun violence.
4. **UN Women Spotlight Initiative:** This completed project provided training on the new domestic violence act to frontline workers, educators, and community members.
5. **Equality Fund Core Grant:** A three-year initiative supporting victims of gender-based violence through essential services.
6. **Legal Aid and Mental Health Services:** A partnership with Birmingham University to provide legal aid and mental health support, this is an ongoing partnership and is undertaken every summer.
7. **Pantry Project:** With funding from the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, this project involves constructing a pantry for storing and supplying food for clients.
8. **Gender Equity in Education:** A new initiative funded by IDRC aims to build capacity for gender equity and inclusion in education across Saint Lucia, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

9. **Domestic Violence Minimization Project:** Ongoing sensitization and education on gender equality and GBV in 16 schools, supported by the French Embassy and Unite Caribbean.
10. **Safe Shelter and Support for Special Needs Children:** Online fundraising via the Global Giving Foundation has enabled the provision of housing, food, and medical assessments for victims of domestic violence and children with special needs.
11. **IT Literacy for Women and Girls:** Funded by Free Stem Fund/Women Win, this project involves establishing an IT room in Vieux Fort and teaching computer literacy to women and girls.
12. **Anti-Human Trafficking Framework:** Completed in collaboration with the OAS Secretariat, this initiative developed a framework to combat human trafficking in the tourism industry and trained immigration and law enforcement agencies.
13. **TVET Support and Classroom Upgrades:** Supported by the European Union, through the Department of Economic Development this project provides transportation for vulnerable youth to attend skills training, behavior modification for special needs children, and infrastructure upgrades at the Dunnottar Special Needs School.
14. **758Pride Podcast:** An ongoing initiative advocating for LGBTQI rights through awareness campaigns, advocacy strategies, and creative media content.

Summary of Services and Impact for 2024

In 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. provided critical support to 634 individuals, addressing diverse needs across gender, age, and vulnerability. The organization's services spanned counseling, food distribution, legal aid, and safe housing for victims of domestic violence. Below is a summary of the key achievements:

Demographics of People Served

• Girls (under 12 years):	67
• Adolescent Girls (12–18 years):	216
• Young Women (19–30 years):	154
• Adult Women (31–65 years):	112
• Senior Women (over 65 years):	11
• Non-binary Individuals: (across all age groups)	55
• Boys and Men: (across all age groups)	19

Services Provided

1. Counseling Services

- Clients Served: 172
- Counseling Sessions Delivered: 714
- Referrals to Other Agencies: 30

2. Food Support

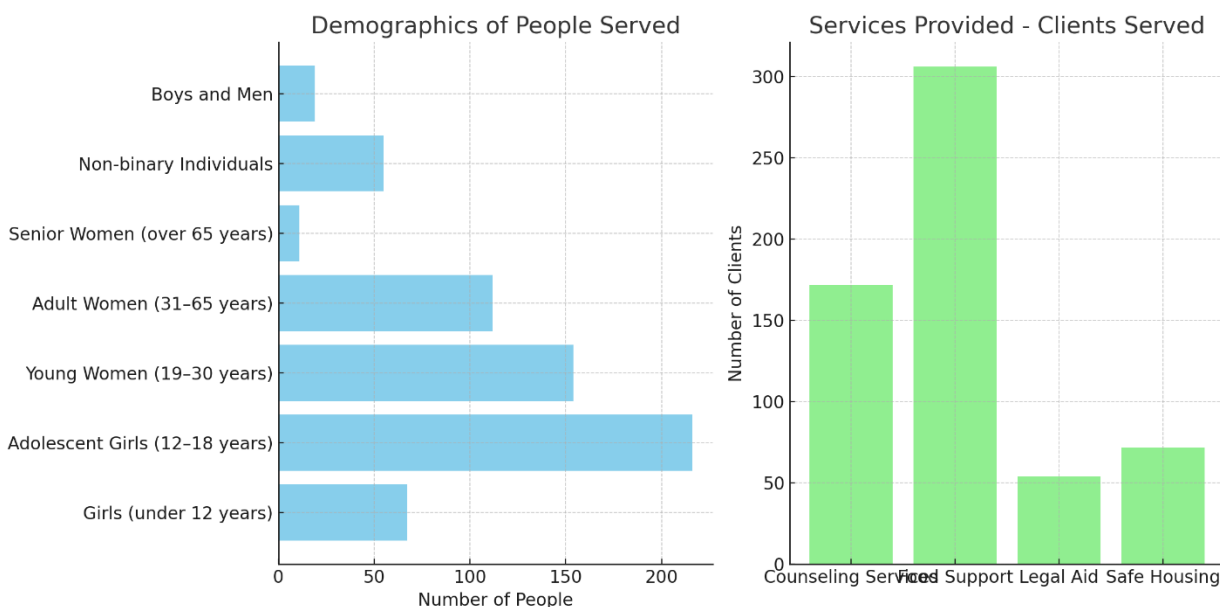
- Supported Clients: 306
- Total Beneficiaries: 1,174

3. Legal Aid

- Cases Handled: 54
- Cases Heard in Court: 32

4. Safe Housing for Domestic Violence Victims

- Women Sheltered: 67
- Girls Sheltered: 5



5.

Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. has made a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable individuals and families, particularly women, girls, and non-binary persons. By addressing critical issues such as domestic violence, food insecurity, and access to legal aid, the organization has continued to empower and protect those most in need and highlights the organization's unwavering commitment to fostering a safer, more equitable society.

Summary of January 2024 Meetings

In January 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. engaged in a series of strategic meetings and webinars aimed at advancing its mission and strengthening its programs. These sessions included critical discussions on funding opportunities, capacity building, advocacy, and gender equality. Notable engagements included grant-writing workshops for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and the French Embassy meeting to discuss the Stop Gender-Based Violence Project. The organization also participated in the 2024 Black Feminisms Forum logistics and program overview webinars, which provided valuable insights into regional feminist advocacy.

Other highlights included the GGGI Solar PV Support Kickoff and follow-up one-on-one sessions, the OAS meetings addressing gender-based violence and challenges facing CSOs/NGOs, and the SALCC talk with students on the Domestic Violence Act. Additionally, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia contributed to dialogues on the gender impact of China's engagement in the Global South and the UN system's capacity for gender equality.

Summary of February 2024 Meetings and Activities

February 2024 was a dynamic month for Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc., marked by significant milestones, strategic collaborations, and advocacy efforts. Key engagements included participation in the **Black Feminists Fund Conference** in Barbados and active involvement in Saint Lucia's **Draft National Gender Equality Policy and Strategy** discussions. The organization also advanced its advocacy by contributing to the **OAS Framework Consultation** on preventing sexual violence in the tourism industry and collaborating with the Bordelaise Correctional Facility to address the personal care needs of female inmates. Additionally, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia joined the **UN Women Quarterly CSOs Meeting** and provided critical support to a domestic violence survivor during court proceedings, highlighting its commitment to justice and victim advocacy.

Capacity-building initiatives were another focus, with participation in the **CBF CORE Project EWRO Presentation** on gender-responsive climate change adaptation and a workshop by **Access Now** on digital security and mental health resources for human rights defenders. The organization also strengthened its fundraising efforts by planning the **International Women's Day Fundraising Ball** and securing a seat on the **Saint Lucia Social Development Fund Board**.

Summary of March 2024 Meetings and Activities

In March 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. continued its impactful work through strategic engagements and initiatives aimed at advocacy, capacity building, and community support. Notably, the organization celebrated its election to the **Saint Lucia Constitutional Review Commission**, enabling it to influence critical national reforms. Key project discussions included the **CFLI Project End-of-Project Meeting** and the **USAID Kick-Off** in collaboration with Outright International, focusing on economic livelihood support for LGBTQI community members. Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia also participated in the **GEF SGP Grantee Consultation**, ensuring alignment and progress in active projects under the GEF 8 framework.

Capacity-building and wellness initiatives were central to the month, with participation in the **Psychological First Aid for Children Workshop** hosted by UWI and **Equality Fund Wellness**

and Collective Care Sessions. The organization also raised awareness through the **REVUP Radio Program**, addressing domestic violence and issues affecting women and girls. Additionally, it contributed to sectoral development through the **Youth Service Sector Meeting** and its role on the **Saint Lucia Social Development Fund HR Committee**.

Summary of April 2024 Meetings and Activities

In April 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. engaged in diverse initiatives and collaborations to further its mission of advocacy, capacity building, and community empowerment. Highlights of the month included a **presentation to the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF)** on the rehabilitation of clients and a **site visit to the Dunnottar School** to discuss EU-funded upgrades in partnership with the Department of Economic Affairs. The organization also collaborated with Birmingham University on plans for a **Summer Legal Aid and Mental Health Clinic**, emphasizing holistic support for vulnerable communities.

Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia actively contributed to regional and global discussions, participating in the **CARPHA Townhall Meeting** on crime as a public health issue, the **Caribbean Development Bank's Gender Equality Action Plan Focus Group**, and the **CARPHA Conference** in Saint Lucia. The organization also attended webinars and consultations on topics such as equity financing, human rights, gender justice, and democratic governance.

Summary of May 2024 Activities

In May 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. actively engaged in diverse initiatives focusing on gender-based violence advocacy, capacity building, and regional development. Key highlights included the **Radio Show at Gablewoods Mall**, advocating against gender-based violence, and a **Consultation for Teachers** under the French Embassy Project to strengthen their capacity in identifying and addressing domestic violence. The organization also participated in the **Regional Gyaff** virtual chat with human rights defenders and the **Round Table for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia**, reinforcing its commitment to inclusivity and human rights advocacy.

The month also featured strategic engagements in global and regional dialogues, such as the **SIDS4 Online Stakeholder Briefing** and the **SIDS Conference in Antigua**, emphasizing sustainable development and resilience in Small Island Developing States. Additionally, Raise Your Voice attended the **Launch of the 7th Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey Results**, the **NGO Financial Management Workshop**, and consultations on the **U.S. Strategy for Women, Peace, and Security**. These activities reflect the organization's dedication to addressing critical issues while strengthening its capacity and fostering meaningful partnerships for lasting impact.

Summary of June 2024 Meetings and Activities

June 2024 was a pivotal month for Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc., marked by active participation in global, regional, and local initiatives to advance gender equality and strengthen organizational capacity. The organization focused on preparing its **ECOSOC Report to the UN**, highlighting its contributions toward Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). It also participated in the **Monitoring SDG 5 Event**, which examined progress and gaps in achieving gender equality and emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and robust data monitoring. Additionally, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia engaged in consultations such as the **USAID Criminal Dynamics National Consultation** and the **OAS Roundtable on Women's Leadership and Engagement in Productive Sectors**, aligning its advocacy with international frameworks.

The organization further contributed to shaping global principles by joining the **Gender Persecution Information Session**, hosted by MADRE and Outright International, to influence the development of the International Criminal Court's new principles on gender persecution. Capacity-building activities included the **Gender Awareness for Disaster Recovery Training** and the **Launch of the AC GBV Community of Practice and Learning Session**. Meetings with key stakeholders, such as the **IDRC Leadership Team** and the **BNTF 11 Cycle Stakeholder Meeting**, reflected its ongoing commitment to collaborative and strategic action.

Summary of July 2024 Meetings and Activities

In July 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. actively engaged in diverse activities focused on advocacy, inclusion, and sustainable development. Key highlights included the **1st Meeting of the Network for Dialogue on Human Trafficking in the Americas**, addressing strategies to combat trafficking, and the **UN Women and Civil Society Meeting on Beijing+30**, which revisited global commitments to gender equality. The organization also participated in discussions on **LGBTQI+ voices in climate justice** and the **GLIDE Landscape Analysis Launch**, exploring LGBTQI+ political participation worldwide.

Regionally, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia received hampers from **OECS Hamper Drive** towards supporting clients with essential supplies, and collaborated on the **WoMIND Climate Leadership Program** to advance gender-responsive climate action. The organization also engaged in the **Multi-Country Gap and Needs Assessment** for climate-resilient urban planning, focusing on the inclusion of vulnerable groups. Capacity-building efforts included the **UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue**, addressing socioeconomic trends and SDG implementation, and the **CARIBSECURE Project Meeting**, emphasizing regional security and resilience.

Summary of August 2024 Meetings and Activities

August 2024 was a productive month for Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc., with a focus on capacity building, advocacy, and organizational development. Key highlights included participation in the **UN Trust Fund Webinar: From Adversity to Advantage**, which explored strategies for building organizational resilience, and the **Writing to Win: Grant Proposal Writing Workshop**, aimed at enhancing fundraising capabilities. The organization also

contributed to discussions on **Gender Equality in SIDS Economies** during the Gender Equality Forum and engaged in the **ACE Call for Proposals Launch Event**, aligning with efforts to secure funding for impactful initiatives.

Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia advanced its advocacy work through participation in **IHCHR Hearings Pre-Meeting** and **Focus Groups on the IAF Grant Allocation Process**, ensuring that marginalized voices are represented in funding decisions. The organization also collaborated on the **Building Bricks Project**, focusing on community resilience, and participated in the **FREE STEM Film Screening Event**, celebrating achievements in gender equality in STEM. Additionally, the team attended the **Global Policy Dialogues for the Classroom**, highlighting data-driven insights into global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development.

Summary of September 2024 Meetings and Activities

September 2024 was a month of strategic advocacy and program development for Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc., highlighted by preparations for the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**. The organization initiated outreach to public and private sector agencies, encouraging them to decorate spaces in orange and engage staff in wearing orange to raise awareness. Advocacy efforts also included participation in the **Equality Fund Anti-Gender Policy Cohort Meeting** and a **Focus Group with LGBTIQ+ Organizations**, fostering inclusivity and addressing critical social issues.

Operational milestones included the **EU MOU Signing for the GEPSSED Project**, where Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia took responsibility for transportation, psychosocial support, and infrastructure improvements for TVET trainees and special needs children. The organization also contributed to discussions on **Resilient Green Affordable Housing in the Eastern Caribbean** and reviewed the **Forensic Evidence Bill** to enhance legal frameworks. Capacity-building activities, such as the **Financial and Semester Reports in GovGrants Training** and the **CDB/OECS/WB/EU Procurement Fair**, strengthened organizational efficiency and partnerships.

Summary of October 2024 Meetings and Activities

In October 2024, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. engaged in a wide range of initiatives aimed at advocacy, capacity building, and regional collaboration. A key highlight was the **Official Public Launch of the “Supporting the Shift to Electric Mobility in Saint Lucia” Project**, reflecting the organization's commitment to sustainable development and innovation. Advocacy efforts included participation in the **North America + LAC AC GBV Regional Meeting** and the **CDN Meeting on the Rights of LGBTI+ Persons in the Caribbean**, reinforcing its dedication to gender equality and inclusivity.

Capacity-building activities included the **NGO Budgeting Essentials Workshops** hosted by Humentum and the **Caribbean CommsLab Focus Group Discussion** in Barbados, where Equality Fund grantees discussed successes and challenges. Additionally, the organization joined a **Study Tour to Martinique** along with the French Embassy and Unite Caribbean to foster collaboration with government officials and NGOs on shared issues. Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia

also participated in global conversations, such as the **LGBTQI+ Activism and the UN Session** and the **Towards Human Rights-Based Guidelines on Resettlement** discussion, emphasizing its role in advocating for marginalized groups and influencing policy at regional and international levels.

November 2024 Highlights

November 2024 was a month of impactful engagements and strategic planning for Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. Key activities included participation in the **Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children** in Colombia, underscoring the organization's commitment to protecting children's rights globally. Advocacy for LGBTQI+ rights was highlighted through the event **LGBT Persons and Elections: Barriers and Solutions**, which addressed the challenges faced by LGBTQI+ individuals in electoral participation. Locally, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia collaborated with the **Community Tourism Agency** during a visit to Canaries to discuss sustainable economic empowerment projects for women and girls in Canaries and Anse La Raye.

The organization also contributed to sustainable development through its involvement in the **GEF Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project** and discussions on the **Education Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan**. Other notable engagements included a **USAID Meeting** to outline projects and programs for the next three years and the **Frontline Alliance Against GBV Quarterly Meeting**, focusing on gender-based violence prevention. Additionally, Raise Your Voice facilitated donations of bedsheets to OKEU and SJH Hospitals, reflecting its ongoing commitment to community support and well-being.

December 1–19, 2024: Activities and Meetings

Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc. concluded 2024 with a series of strategic activities and collaborative engagements, reinforcing its commitment to advocacy, capacity building, and partnership development. Highlights included the **Equality Fund Visit**, where due diligence was conducted following the organization's three-year core grant commitment, and a **Taiwan Technical Mission Meeting** to assess progress on the Agro-processing facility project. Engagement with **ESMT Master's Degree Students** explored potential internships for 2025, aligning with efforts to build capacity and foster academic partnerships.

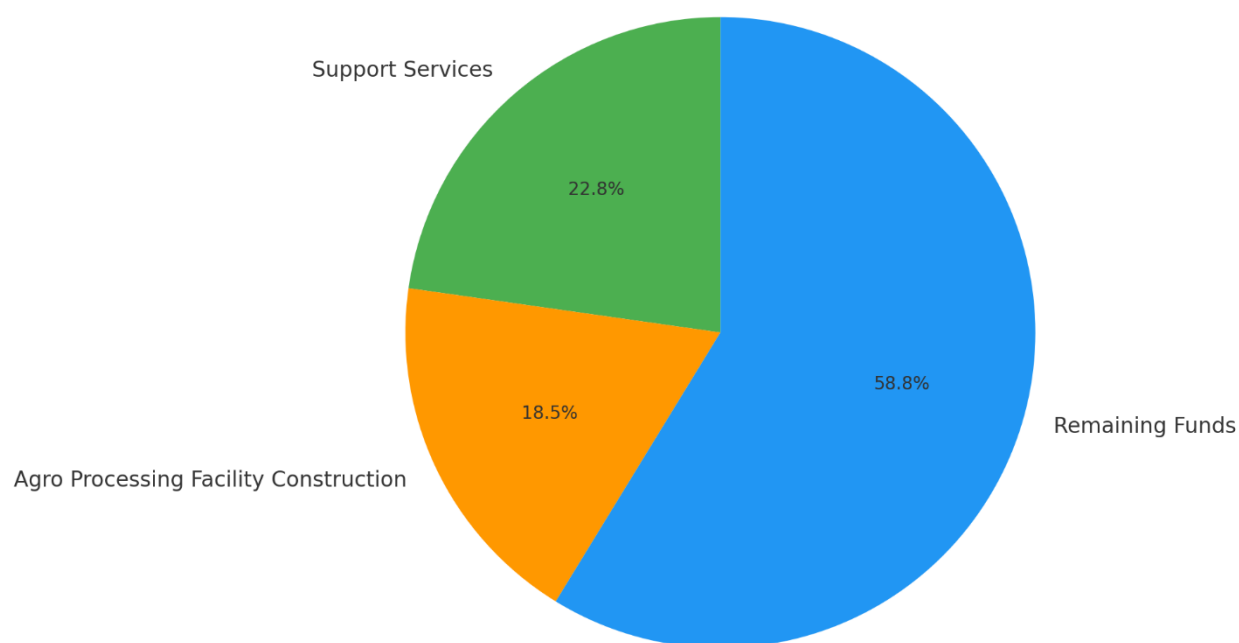
Advocacy activities included participation in **OutSummit 2024** and the **Rollback on Rights Policy Cohort - Session Four**, addressing global human rights challenges. The organization also celebrated **Human Rights Day** with the UK High Commission in Saint Lucia and attended the **UN Women and Civil Society Meeting on Beijing+30**, reflecting its dedication to advancing gender equality. Capacity-building efforts included the **UNICEF Onboarding Training** for financial reporting and participation and a **Webinar on Implementing the Sendai Gender Action Plan**, equipping the team with tools to enhance program delivery and reporting.

Financial Overview for 2023

Financial Summary Table

Category	Amount (XCD)	Amount (USD)
Total Revenue Raised	1,264,004	465,237.59
Total Expenses	521,375	191,900.70
- Support Services	287,626.08	105,865.54
- Agro Processing Facility Construction	233,748.92	86,035.16
Remaining Funds	742,629	273,336.90

Financial Breakdown for 2024



Here is the pie chart representing the financial breakdown for 2024:

- **Support Services:** 55.1% of the total expenses
- **Agro Processing Facility Construction:** 44.9% of the total expenses
- **Remaining Funds:** 58.7% of the total raised revenue which forms part of the funds for continued construction of the Agro Processing Facility and continuation of project.

Next Steps & Future Plans

1. Strategic Priorities and Goals

- Focus on increasing visibility and engagement in new regions, both locally and nationally.

- Cultivate deeper relationships with existing partners and explore new collaborations to amplify impact.
- Continue to enhance the quality and accessibility of services through the adoption of new technologies and methods.
- Establish long-term sustainability through diversified funding sources and a more robust organizational infrastructure.

2. Upcoming Programs

- Launch new training programs, workshops, and webinars to equip communities with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive.
- Expand community-based initiatives, focusing on issues such as environmental sustainability, social justice, and health equity.
- Roll out mentorship and leadership programs aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders.

3. Advocacy Plans

- Work to influence national policies that align with the mission, focusing on areas such as climate change, healthcare, and education reform.
- Run awareness campaigns on key issues, leveraging digital platforms to reach a wider audience and spark change.
- Strengthen coalitions with other advocacy organizations to amplify efforts and create a united front on critical issues.

4. Fundraising Goals

- Set ambitious goals for donations through online campaigns, events, and major donor programs.
- Increase efforts to secure grants from foundations, corporations, and government sources.
- Establish new corporate partnerships that align with the mission and provide mutual benefits.
- Encourage supporters to organize fundraising events and campaigns within their networks.

5. Opportunities for Supporters to Get Involved

- Offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, both in-person and virtual, to help with community events, administrative tasks, and program support.
- Mobilize supporters to take action on key advocacy issues by signing petitions, attending rallies, or contacting policymakers.

- Invite supporters to participate in fundraising events, such as charity runs, auctions, or virtual challenges.
- Encourage supporters to take advantage of corporate matching gift programs to double the impact of their donations.

Acknowledgments

We extend our deepest gratitude to the donors, volunteers, staff, and partners who have made this endeavor possible. Your generosity, dedication, and hard work have been instrumental in achieving our goals and creating a lasting impact.

A special recognition goes to Inter American Foundation, GEF/SGP/UNDP, Taiwanese Embassy for their outstanding contributions to the Agro Processing Facility. Your unwavering commitment and support have been a true inspiration to us all.

To everyone who has supported us along the way, thank you for believing in our mission and for being a part of this journey. Together, we have made a difference.

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