



the Blue Atlas Project

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

EDITION





OUR PROFILE

The Blue Atlas Project (BA) is a mission driven non-profit whose focus is on building sustainable food systems with those in vulnerable places. We focus on areas impacted by natural or man-made disasters and by working with the communities we aim to serve. We develop solutions to combat food insecurity by integrating trainings, strategic partnerships and resources for food and agricultural related business development.

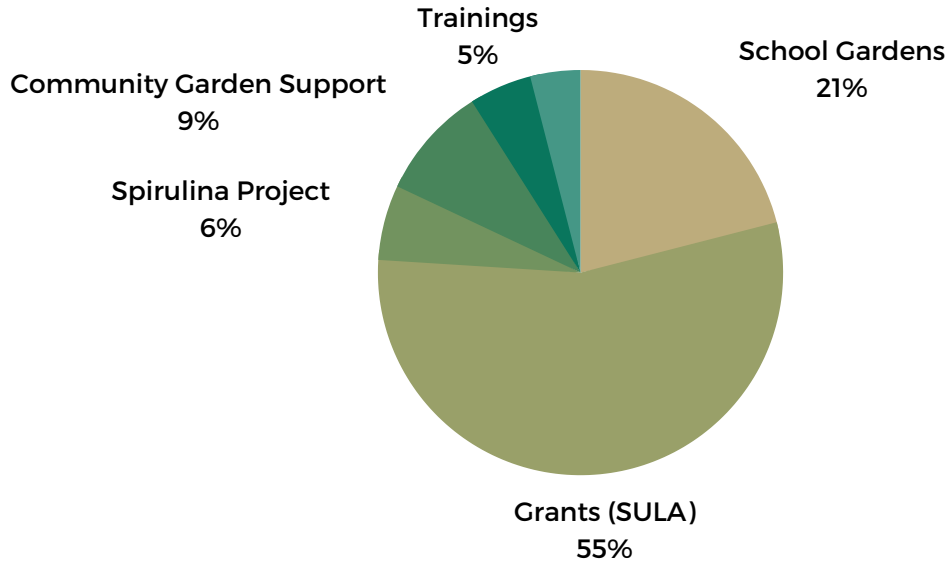
THE OBJECTIVE

BA's objective is to combat hunger and malnutrition in areas with high levels of food insecurity. This is measured by a country's food imports along with the percentage of people living at or below the poverty line

We are currently working in two locations to help solve real problems. We provide tailor-made solutions for each location by working with the farming communities and the schools to create immediate and generational impacts.

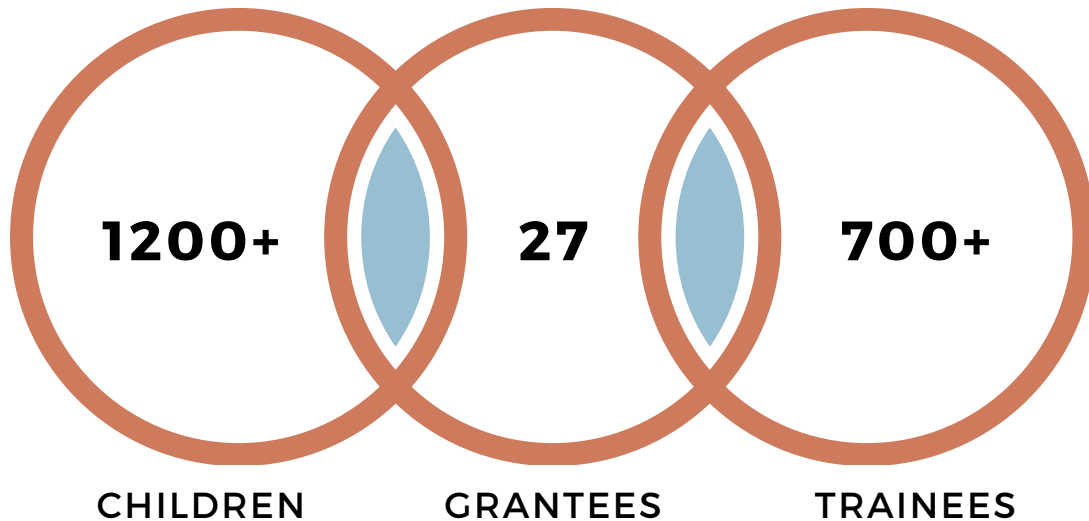
2022: FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

In 2022 we raised **\$247,000** in Grants; from Foundations, in-kind and private donations. Our main programming was carried out in Abaco, Northern Bahamas, where we have been working since the end of 2020 as they rebuild from Hurricane Dorian. We also began a project in Uganda, focusing on combating malnutrition for those living in poverty by creating a spirulina farm. This graph will show the funding breakdown.



BENEFICIARIES

This graph represents the reach of our main programming areas in 2022. With gratitude to partner organizations, we were able to expand the reach of trainings to the greater Caribbean.



TESTIMONIALS

I am so thankful for The Blue Atlas Project!

When I applied for the grant I honestly thought it would be a long difficult process that would end fruitless, as I had applied for other grants in the past and was unsuccessful.

Surprisingly, within less than a week of my application Kali contacted me. She constantly kept me up to date with the status of my application. It wasn't long when I received news of my approval!

I can't put into words the feeling I got when I received my grant! I've been gardening on a small scale for about two years. Kali and The Blue Atlas team has not only help me to realize the unlimited potential of backyard farming but through the help of their educational projects and grant has made growth and expansion a reality for my family and I.

The Blue Atlas Project is the real deal!
- Sharman Davis (SULA Grant Recipient)

In June, 2022 while completing end of year reports, I along with a colleague was briefly introduced to the term 'Aquaponics' by the Blue Atlas Project. On learning that it was about introducing a safe alternative to soil-less systems for growing crops I immediately became interested in acquiring as much information regarding the system. Fast-forward to early July during the summer remediation program I eagerly jumped on the opportunity to watch and physically take part in installing the grow beds, watching the fish tank and solar power system being installed to filling the system with water. Being a part of this experience was priceless and worth sacrificing my summer vacation as I am rather concerned about food security issues globally but particularly for the Bahamians population.

After Hurricane Dorian and since the global pandemic of Covid-19. I think that the need to widely promote and implement the same or similar projects throughout The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is important. Food shortages, supply chain issues, safety and security regarding suppliers, distributors and retailers are concerning for me as a consumer and should be a top priority for all. Ensuring a constant, fresh and nutritious source of food from our backyard directly to one's table should be the goal for every household/community by 2025.

- Ms. Jasmine Bodie (Community Garden Manager at Sherlin C. Bootle Secondary School in Cooper's Town)



PROGRAMMING

Abaco

Scaling Up Local Agriculture (SULA) Grant \$130k+

Providing small grants for new and rebuilding farms in Abaco and Grand Bahamas. Our first two rounds of SULA Grants ranged from \$500-\$5000 and we interviewed and selected 27 backyard or subsistent farmers to help fund necessary infrastructural projects to get more people able to grow more food.

"Thank you for all you have done. You've made a significant impact on our farm and it was and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to invest in us. It is greatly appreciated."

-Larhue McPhee

School Gardens: \$50k+

5 Aquaponics school gardens

-Including shade house structures for 4

-Including solar for 3

-Including construction, logistics and installation

2 Hydroponics School garden demonstrations

3 permaculture school garden

-Utilizing the lasagna layering technique we provided training and materials to build a school gardens at three locations and have continued to provide additional support the new garden club at Central Abaco Primary.

Our Seed-to-School Initiative reached an additional 90 students by providing them with kits to plant seeds in the classroom for their home gardens.

Community Garden Support: \$20k+

Backyard farm support through equipment donation.

In partnership with Abaco Strong developing an aquaponics community garden for the residents of Treasure Cay.

Reach: 20+ families





Abaco (con't)

Trainings: \$6k

12 trainings with 6 specialists from 3 countries reaching over 700+ beneficiaries (60% were women)

"Grow Happy" School Training Day: A half day of games, smoothies, starting seeds, building beds and education at two primary schools.

Nuero-Network Therapy: 10 participants interested in learning how food impacts their mental health and how to utilize that to handle trauma.

"Thank you Kali for such an interesting and fun workshop filled with essential tools to help us through the difficulties of these times whilst dealing with our everyday lives! My daughter and I immensely enjoyed the workshop, and look forward to participating in future ones!"

-Jackie and Elizabeth Eldon (Attending the workshop on emotional health and how food plays a role)

Eco-Aquaponics Training (EAT) with Randy & Sue Campbell of Perpetual Foods. These trainings are a 12 hour intensive training on the overview of aquaponics and how to run the systems we installed.

"Just wanted to express my appreciation for being able to participate in the recent Treasure Cay seminar and to say how much I admire your work and commitment with the Blue Atlas project.

I would hope our paths cross again, but in the meantime many thanks again and best wishes for continuing success."

-Jack Slack- Aquaponics training attendee

The next three Trainings were in Partnership with Volcani International Partnerships and the Jewish Distribution Committee and was offered to those in the Caribbean.

Aquaculture: 5 in person talks around Abaco on Aquaculture. This was continued with a follow-up 16 hours of virtually training.

Compost: An 8-hour virtual training on Compost.

Hydroponics: An 8-hour virtual training on Hydroponics.

"Thank you and all your team for imparting all your knowledge to us. It is greatly appreciated."

-Stephanie Hield- government representative for Treasure Cay Community Garden

Uganda

Spirulina Development Institute (SDI): \$25k+ Combating Malnutrition in Vulnerable Populations with Spirulina

Our project aims to address childhood malnutrition by focusing on two related threats to nutrient-rich food access in communities living on less than \$2/day.

SDI is the creation of a spirulina farm, training, and research facility. The institute is innovative in that it works on the following four goals simultaneously while prioritizing scalability, replicability, and financial viability:

- the pilot institute will provide an urgently-needed nutrient-dense food supplement at the local farm level in the short term,
- it will maintain a research agenda investigating and documenting both the impacts of spirulina consumption on child malnutrition and a training program for spirulina farming and processing,
- it will create a well-documented, scalable, and replicable model for the expansion of spirulina farming for personal and commercial production at the regional and national level across Uganda and neighboring countries, and
- working with our partners in both the National Drug Authority and the Uganda Standards Body, SDI will contribute to the standardization and regulation of spirulina as a food supplement, helping these bodies create a regulatory framework that can guide neighboring countries looking to implement similar programs.

We have begun initial infrastructure in 2022. This includes road access, well, latrine, three room storage building, harvesting station, equipment; and with the generosity from one donor our first 7mx15m spirulina pond.



THANK YOU

The team at Blue Atlas Project is small but growing. We are continually inspired and awed by the generosity of so many, who made all of this possible. The past two years were incredibly busy as we stood up these programs - we expect even more to occur in the years to come.

2023 will offer new rewards and challenges. We will continue working with our school gardens in Abaco creating friendly competitive events among the schools; inspiring them to increase the amount of food grown, student participation and student recipe creation. The winning school will receive a cash prize from our non-profit to be used to further their educational goals.

We will start our first school gardens in the US, focusing on areas deeply impacted by the opioid crisis.

Our efforts continue to expand to other areas in the world - In Uganda, we will provide children in five schools access to a sanitary drinking station infused with nutrient dense spirulina.

Our team will continue to assist the SULA Grantees, ensuring their projects come to fruition. We will be providing a third round of SULA Funding in the Bahamas. This round will focus on a select few with extensive business plans to scale agricultural initiative, creating a deeper impact on the Northern Bahamas.

Thank you. To all of our private donors and partners, for a wonderful whirlwind of a year.

Kali Kirkendall
Founder and Executive Director

