



# 2024, a year illuminated by action



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“

**THESANI ZIKHULUPIIRO,  
TETEZANI UFULU WAO**

Break the myths,  
protect their rights.





“

The year 2024 has reaffirmed that our work is made possible thanks to the trust of those who support us and to the resilience of the people with albinism who inspire us every day.

Mafalda Soto,  
Co-founder of Beyond Suncare



## Dear friends and partners,

The year 2024 has been a decisive chapter for Beyond Suncare – a period filled with achievements that reinforce our mission to guarantee health and protection for people with albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout this year, we have faced great challenges but also celebrated major progress that encourages us to continue with renewed energy.

In **Uganda**, we strengthened our partnership with the Elgon Foundation for People with Albinism, **consolidating an integrated and sustainable model of care**. Thanks to this joint work, 20 people received life-saving surgical interventions to treat skin cancer – procedures that not only restored their health but also gave them a renewed opportunity for life.

In **Malawi**, we made strides towards **institutional sustainability** through agreements with local organisations and the renewal of support from the European Union to consolidate a comprehensive project focused on socio-economic development and gender equality. In **Rwanda**, we expanded our collaboration with the Health Alert Organization, which will allow us to **extend the reach of our programmes** for the next two years.

Furthermore, in the **United States**, the **Beyond Suncare Albinism Network** was registered in North Carolina as a new branch of the organisation, dedicated to strengthening our work in social research and implementation science.

Beyond the more than 55,000 personalised sunscreens distributed, the 4,300 people with albinism who received care, and the 800 clinics implemented, this year has reaffirmed that our work is made possible thanks to the **trust of those who support us** and the **resilience of the people with albinism** who inspire us every day.

To each of you – and thankfully there are more of you every year – who make this journey possible, I extend my most sincere gratitude.

This report not only reflects what we have achieved, but also our shared vision of a fairer and more inclusive future, where no one is left behind and where health and protection are guaranteed rights for all.

**Mafalda Soto**

Co-founder and Executive Director  
Beyond Suncare



# **WE ARE BEYOND SUNCARE**

We understand cooperation as a way of acting that generates lasting impact.

We approach communities with care, openness and a willingness to learn, aware that genuine and lasting change can only be built together – by strengthening capacities and promoting shared solutions.





# About Beyond Suncare

## **An organisation committed to health, inclusion and protection**

**Beyond Suncare** is an international non-profit organisation that works to guarantee the right to health, inclusion and protection for people with albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Since 2017, we have developed a pioneering model that combines **free access to adapted sunscreen, specialised dermatological care, training for local health personnel, and community awareness-raising.**

Thanks to this comprehensive vision, we can provide effective responses to the medical, social and cultural challenges faced by people with albinism, offering sustainable solutions adapted to each local reality.

## **Recognition and an evidence-based approach**

**Our work has been recognised as a Good Practice by the United Nations,** a distinction that reinforces our commitment to quality and measurable impact on the lives of people with albinism.

We work based on scientific evidence and with active community participation, because **we believe that the best solutions arise from listening to and addressing the priorities of those who experience the reality first-hand.**

We are present where health systems do not reach, supporting local authorities and communities through technical expertise, proximity and collaboration.

**Our purpose is clear: to generate profound, real and lasting change.**



# Our Mission

## **Defending rights and guaranteeing health for people with albinism**

Our mission is to ensure that **people with albinism in Africa can fully exercise their right to health and live free from the risks associated with their condition**. To achieve this, we work to remove the barriers that hinder access to healthcare services, dermatological care and sun protection.

Our work includes training healthcare personnel, regular distribution of sunscreen, and implementation of protocols that improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer. But our commitment goes beyond immediate response: **we accompany institutions and communities through sustained processes that strengthen capacities and foster local autonomy**.

Guaranteeing health also means ensuring safety, autonomy and the possibility of a future. Each intervention represents a step towards a more inclusive and fair system, where no one is left behind.

## **Promoting social inclusion and transforming systems**

Social inclusion is inseparable from health and protection. That is why our actions go beyond the healthcare field: **we work to eradicate stigma and discrimination against people with albinism**. We develop awareness campaigns that challenge myths, foster respect and promote the inclusion of people with albinism in community life.

At the same time, **we advocate for structural changes in health systems and public policies** so that they respond to the real needs of this community.

Our work focuses on empowering people with albinism to become the protagonists of their own change, strengthening their capacities and promoting leadership.

Only through inclusive and resilient systems will we be able to transform the roots of exclusion and ensure that rights are guaranteed for everyone.





# Our Vision

## **A world without barriers**

We imagine a world in which **people with albinism live with health, safety and full rights, free from discrimination**. This vision means ensuring equal access to opportunities, services and rights. We dream of societies where skin colour does not determine destiny and where everyone can develop their potential in safe and respectful environments.

Our vision is of a future where **differences are recognised as a form of collective richness, not a reason for exclusion**.

We want to build communities where every girl, woman and man with albinism can grow up without fear and have the same opportunities as everyone else.

## **Transformative cooperation**

Our vision is based on a model of **horizontal cooperation, where communities are the main actors of their own change**. We believe in the power of strong partnerships, mutual respect and shared knowledge as engines of transformation. We aspire to a future where diversity is a source of pride, not exclusion, and where no one is left behind.

A fairer and more inclusive society is possible if we work together, combining efforts to break down the barriers that still persist. **Beyond Suncare seeks to be a bridge between international actors and local realities, generating solutions born from the ground that endure over time**.

We listen, we learn and we build collectively, convinced that real change is born from participatory cooperation.







# Our Values

## **Commitment**

We are consistently and responsibly committed to people with albinism.

This commitment is reflected in the quality of our interventions, the continuity of our programmes, and our active **presence in the field, especially in communities where our impact can be greatest.**

We build relationships of trust, accompany long-term change processes, and adapt our actions to each community's reality – always with respect, proximity and responsibility.

## **Professionalism**

Our multidisciplinary team – with expertise in health, cooperation, pharmacy, communication and project management – works with rigour and precision to provide the best response to every challenge and ensure the highest quality in every action.

## **Participation**

We listen, we learn and we build together with the communities in the countries where we work.

**Our methodology is based on the active participation of people** with albinism as the main actors in the processes we promote.

## **Transparency**

We believe that accountability is the foundation of trust.

We communicate clearly and accessibly about what we do, with whom we do it, and what results we achieve – for communities, donors and partners alike.

## **Sustainability**

We design solutions that endure.

**We prioritise local knowledge, capacity building and community ownership** to ensure a real, long-lasting and transformative impact.

# CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS

Aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and its central principle of “leaving no one behind”, our work focuses on one of the most marginalised and vulnerable populations on the African continent: people with albinism.

Through an integrated approach that combines health, education, empowerment and social inclusion, we directly contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing the structural inequalities that affect this group.





# Contribution to the 2030 Agenda



## Good Health and Well-being

We promote the dermatological health of people with albinism through comprehensive prevention of skin cancer, distribution of sunscreens, and training of healthcare personnel in rural areas.



## Quality Education

We carry out educational, awareness and technical training sessions for communities, teachers and health personnel, strengthening their ability to diagnose and care for people with albinism.



## Gender Equality

We apply a gender-sensitive approach in all programmes, promoting the active participation of women and girls with albinism and ensuring equitable access to health, education and employment.



## Decent Work and Economic Growth

We foster inclusive employment, prioritising local recruitment and incorporating people with albinism into our field teams, creating income opportunities and reinforcing leadership within their communities.



## Reduced Inequalities

Our model addresses structural discrimination through programmes that combine education, specialised services and advocacy actions to guarantee equality of opportunity.



## Partnerships for the Goals

We build networks with authorities, hospitals, and civil society organisations, both local and international. Recognised as a “Good Practice” by the United Nations, our model is sustained through strong and lasting partnerships that ensure its long-term viability.







# Our 2024 Focus: Health, Education and Gender



- **Goal 3.3: End preventable diseases.** Detection and treatment of precancerous and cancerous lesions in Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Goal 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage.** A total of 395 people attended in Uganda, 2,321 in Malawi, 1,179 in Rwanda, and 432 in the DRC.
- **Goal 3.c: Increase health financing and workforce in developing countries.** 90 professionals trained in Uganda and 88 in Malawi, reinforcing local capacities.



- **Goal 4.5: Eliminate gender disparities in education.** Educational sessions and workshops with the active participation of girls with albinism and female healthcare workers.
- **Goal 4.7: Promote knowledge for human rights and sustainability.** Theatre caravans and radio programmes reached more than 27,000 people in Malawi and Uganda.
- **Goal 4.c: Increase the supply of qualified teachers.** Training of teachers and community leaders in Rwanda, Uganda and Malawi on health and albinism.



- **Goal 5.1: End discrimination against women.** More than 55% of our beneficiaries are women and girls.
- **Goal 5.5: Ensure women's participation and leadership.** Women led community awareness groups in Malawi, and in Uganda, a woman directs our local counterpart ELGON Foundation.
- **Goal 5.c: Adopt policies for gender equality.** The gender perspective is integrated into all our programmes and projects, from design to evaluation, guided by Beyond Suncare's gender equality policies and those of our local partners.





“ My skin no longer burns and I don’t get wounds as often, thanks to using UMOZI MAX.

Silvia Jamu, 9 years old  
Programme participant  
Malawi



# Inclusion, Employment and Partnerships



- **Goal 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment.** We promote inclusive work opportunities and equitable conditions among our teams, ensuring professional development for all regardless of background or condition.
- **Goal 8.6: Reduce the number of young people without work or training.** Young people with albinism participate in training and capacity-building programmes in Uganda, Rwanda and Malawi, strengthening their skills and employability.



- **Goal 10.2: Promote social, economic and political inclusion for all.** We strengthen community participation through training and awareness activities that empower people with albinism.
- **Goal 10.3: Ensure equal opportunities.** More than 20,000 units of UMOZI MAX sunscreen distributed free of charge in 2024.
- **Goal 10.4: Adopt policies for greater equality.** Support for civil society organisations advocating for the inclusion of the rights of people with albinism in national health plans in Malawi and Rwanda.



- **Goal 17.17: Promote public-private partnerships.** We collaborate with ministries of health, hospitals, community health centres and civil society organisations to integrate dermatological care into national health systems, and with international partners to develop our products and programmes.
- **Goal 17.9: Strengthen international cooperation and training.** We design and deliver training programmes for healthcare professionals in collaboration with scientists, dermatological societies and international NGOs.









# OUR APPROACH

More than 200,000 people with albinism live in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the incidence of skin cancer is extremely high due to a lack of access to information, specialised dermatological care and effective sun protection.

Faced with this reality, Beyond Suncare has developed an integrated, innovative and sustainable approach that combines education on skin cancer prevention, access to specialised healthcare, and community awareness-raising.





# The Challenge

More than 200,000 people with albinism live in Sub-Saharan Africa, many of them in conditions of extreme vulnerability. It is estimated that **over 80% of people with albinism die before the age of 30 from skin cancer** — a disease that could be prevented with appropriate measures. This alarming figure stems from a lack of access to dermatological services, the absence of suitable sun protection products, and the scarcity of trained healthcare professionals.

Beyond the physical risks caused by prolonged sun exposure without protection, **people with albinism face structural discrimination, violence, school dropout, unemployment and social isolation.** In many communities, harmful myths, stigma and cultural beliefs persist, making them targets of rejection and systematic abuse. Women and girls, due to their double condition of gender and albinism, experience even greater vulnerability.

These challenges severely restrict access to basic rights and perpetuate a cycle of poverty, fear and inequality that affects people with albinism throughout their lives.

# The Solution

Our integrated model acts across three key areas — health, education and inclusion — **with interventions tailored to each context and designed to create lasting impact** in the lives of people with albinism.

## ○ **Prevention of skin cancer**

We formulate, produce and distribute SPF 50+ sunscreens adapted to the specific needs of people with albinism, promoting self-care through workshops and direct community engagement.

## ○ **Access to specialised healthcare**

We train local healthcare personnel to provide continuous dermatological care, thereby strengthening public health systems in rural areas.

## ○ **Education, awareness and inclusion**

We carry out educational and awareness activities to combat stigma, promote leadership and inclusion, and foster gender equality and human rights.



“Before, people with albinism would not come to the hospital because they were afraid. After the training with EFPA and Beyond Suncare, everything changed. Today, they trust us, they come for treatment, and they feel truly welcomed.

Daina Kharunda,  
Nursing Assistant,  
Muyembe Health Centre (Uganda)



# How We Work

At Beyond Suncare, we work according to a model of horizontal cooperation, based on active listening, community participation and local knowledge. Our approach is developed from the ground up, through continuous dialogue with people with albinism, health professionals and public authorities. We believe in sustainable, rights-based solutions, tailored to each local context. We act where we are most needed.



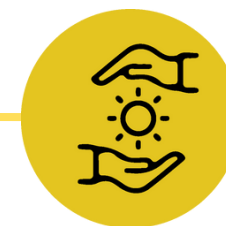
## Collaboration and Alliances

We build strategic partnerships with ministries of health, public hospitals, universities, organisations of people with albinism, and international entities. **This collaborative network allows us to maximise impact**, share knowledge, strengthen local capacity, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our work.



## Education

We train healthcare professionals, teachers, community leaders and families of people with albinism through theoretical and practical workshops on health and self-care. We believe in transformative education that empowers communities, raises awareness and helps dismantle long-standing myths in the societies where we work.



## Awareness

We run campaigns in schools, communities and local media to combat stigma, reduce discrimination and make the rights of people with albinism visible. Awareness-raising is key to building safer, more inclusive and cohesive environments.



## **Adapted Sun Protection**

We develop and distribute SPF 50+ sunscreens, specifically formulated for the needs of people with albinism in Africa. Alongside the sunscreen, we provide educational materials and promote self-care practices, teaching communities how to use the product correctly and helping to reduce the risk of future skin cancer.





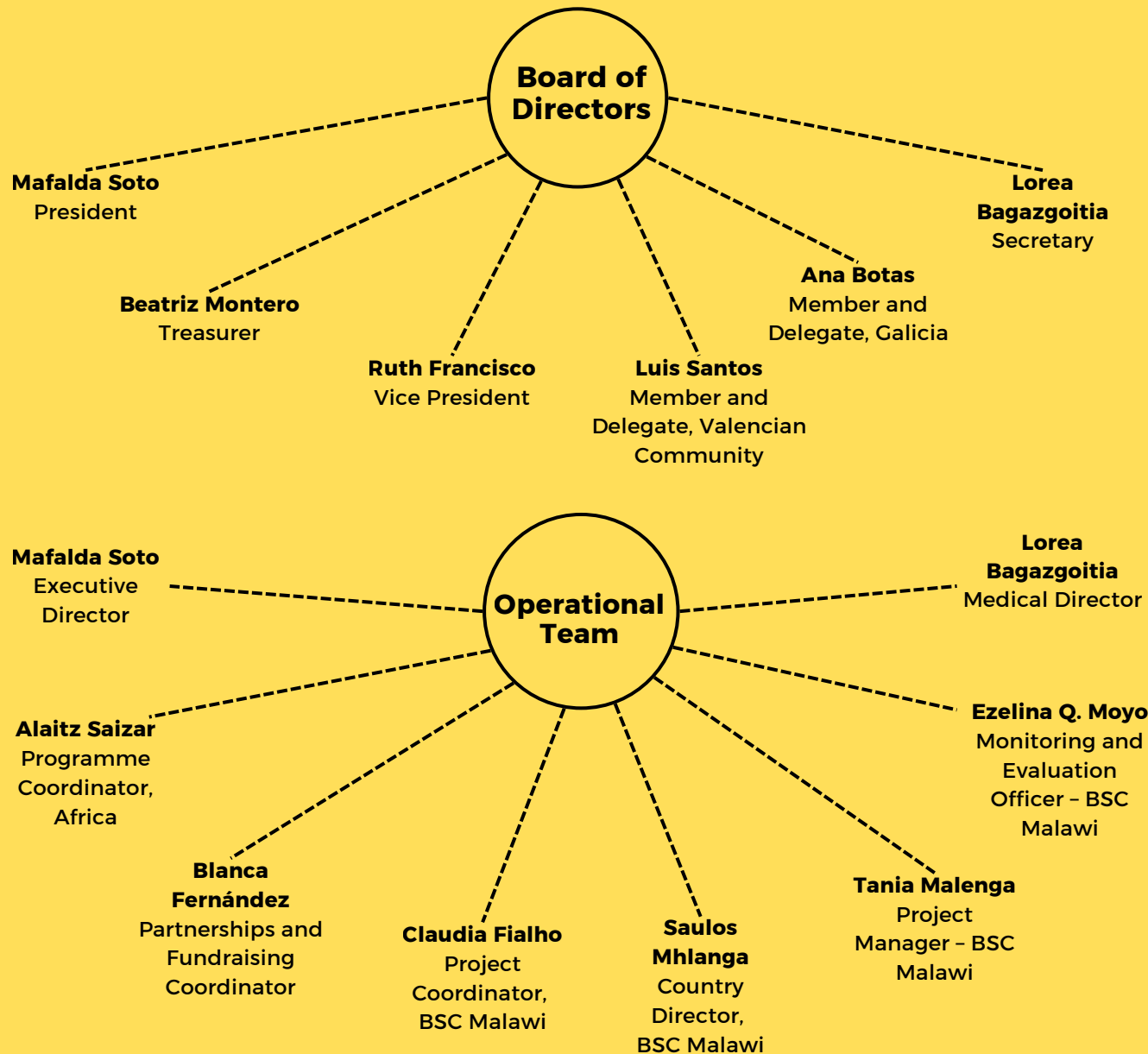
# OUR TEAM

At Beyond Suncare, we combine vocation, commitment and talent.

Our team is made up of professionals and volunteers who bring together experience, empathy and a deep connection with the communities we serve.







## Junta asesora

### Claire Fuller (United Kingdom)

President, International Foundation for Dermatology

### Yolanda Gilaberte (Spain)

Researcher and dermatologist, President of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV)

### Ikponwosa Ero (Nigeria)

Former UN Independent Expert on Albinism

### Jose M<sup>a</sup> Márquez (Spain)

Director, Fundación África Directo

### Peter Ash (Canadá)

Founder and Director, Under the Same Sun, a leading NGO promoting human rights for people with albinism

### Uli Osterwalder (Switzerland)

Senior Scientific Advisor on Sun Protection, formerly with DSM and BASF

### Giacomo Proli (Italy)

Marketing and Communications Expert, former Marketing and Retail Director at L'Oréal.

# Together for a Purpose

## **Local Presence and Shared Leadership**

Our field teams are made up of local professionals, many of whom are people with albinism themselves.

This ensures an approach rooted in **direct knowledge of local realities and reinforces leadership within communities**. This structure is key to building trust-based relationships with beneficiaries and ensuring the sustainability of our projects, while promoting empowerment from within.

## **Specialised Volunteering**

We collaborate with volunteers with experience in communication, awareness-raising, project management and technical consultancy.

They bring new skills, diverse perspectives and a **strong commitment to human rights**.

## **Multidisciplinary Team and Expert Advisory Board**

Our technical team includes specialists in various fields such as **health, international cooperation, pharmacy, project management, strategic partnerships, fundraising and communication**. We also have an international network of advisors in dermatology, cosmetics and human rights, whose expertise strengthens our interventions with scientific rigour and professional guidance.

## **Consolidated Leadership**

**Mafalda Soto**, co-founder and Executive Director of Beyond Suncare, is a **pharmacist specialised in Tropical Medicine, Global Health and Albinism**, with almost two decades of field experience. Her leadership has been essential in developing a model recognised by the United Nations and in establishing strategic partnerships with organisations such as BASF and RNB, enabling the production of sunscreens specifically designed for people with albinism.



# OUR WORK IN 2024

In 2024, Beyond Suncare strengthened its presence and consolidated its integrated model of care in Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through a community-based approach grounded in scientific evidence, we succeeded in bringing health, protection and wellbeing to people with albinism – transforming realities and opening new paths towards a fairer future.

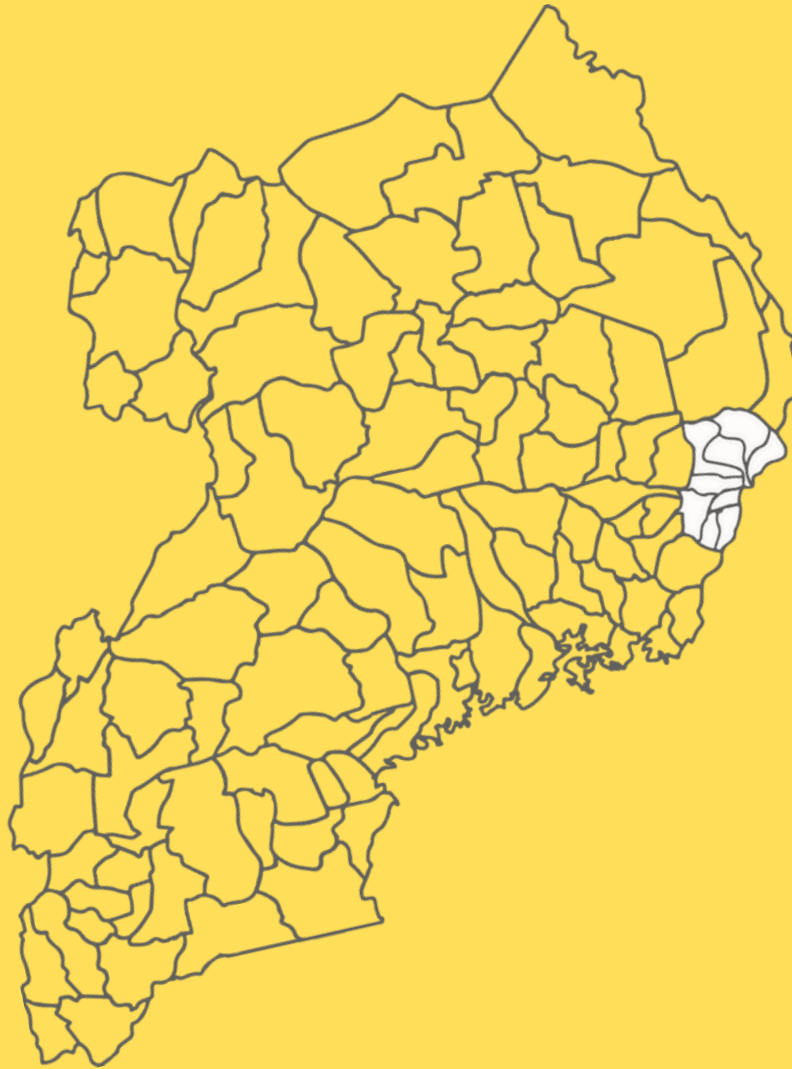
This year was marked by innovation, strategic collaboration and the continued commitment of all those who make our work possible.

## Countries of Operation in 2024





# UGANDA



## AREAS OF ACTION

- Prevention of skin cancer and comprehensive dermatological care
- Training of healthcare personnel and strengthening local capacities
- Community awareness and promotion of the rights of people with albinism

## Local and International Partners



Elgon Foundation  
for persons with  
Albinism



Advantage Africa



Source of the  
Nile Union of  
Persons with  
Albinism





# Empowering to Drive Change

## Context and Background

According to research by Albinism Umbrella, one of Uganda's leading organisations advocating for the rights of people with albinism, the country has around 8,000 people with albinism, most of them without access to specialised care. **More than 81% are under 30 years old, and only 2% live beyond 60**, a life expectancy gap that highlights the extreme vulnerability of this population. In a country with only six dermatologists for 46 million inhabitants, early diagnosis is nearly impossible — meaning that most patients only seek medical help when lesions are already in advanced stages.

Beyond Suncare began its work in Bugisu, a mountainous and hard-to-reach region with one of the highest concentrations of people with albinism in the country, in 2022. Our programme, developed in collaboration with the Elgon Foundation for People with Albinism (EFPA) and the Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA), now includes 395 registered participants — a 53% increase since the beginning of activities in the area.

## Prevention and Access to Sun Protection

In 2024, three rounds of mobile clinics were organised across the nine districts of Bugisu where we operate. During these sessions, 1,609 units of UMOZI MAX sunscreen were distributed to 395 people (49% men, 51% women). Among them, 62% were children and adolescents under 18.

Medical follow-ups showed that **sunburn cases dropped by 42.3%, while healthy skin conditions improved by 24.4% since the programme began**. Towards the end of the year, a slight relapse was detected, underlining the importance of maintaining ongoing education, sunscreen distribution and clinical follow-up to ensure sustainable results.

Regarding actinic keratosis, an initial improvement was observed, although overall prevalence increased — linked to improved detection capacity due to a greater number of trained specialists.



## Partnerships for Action

Thanks to the joint work with EFPA and SNUPA, and the support of the CRODA Foundation, **20 skin cancer surgeries were carried out in 2024**. Ten of these operations took place in December, driven by the efforts of our Beyond Suncare US branch, which helped provide long-awaited treatment to patients who had been on hold for months. All diagnosed cases were basal cell carcinoma, mainly in areas highly exposed to sunlight. These interventions restored health, safety and a renewed sense of life to the people affected

## Training and Awareness

Continuous strengthening of local knowledge and capacity was another key pillar of our action. A total of **90 healthcare professionals** — including doctors, nurses and community health workers — took part in the clinics, applying the knowledge gained from previous training on early diagnosis, photoprotection and clinical management of albinism. Their specialisation and commitment ensure that this care becomes integrated into the public health network, remaining sustainable beyond the project itself. Awareness was equally crucial: EFPA produced four community radio programmes, reaching thousands of listeners with information about albinism, discrimination risks, skin cancer prevention and correct sun protection practices.







## Challenges and Outlook

The main challenge in Uganda remains expanding national coverage within a context of limited resources. The demand for dermatological care among people with albinism far exceeds current capacity, and regular access to sunscreen remains a critical need.

In 2025, our objective is to **expand the number of clinics to new regions, while strengthening collaboration with health authorities and civil society** organisations to ensure more people with albinism can access the care they need.

To achieve this, we will prioritise **training new healthcare professionals and building strategic partnerships** to ensure medium-term sustainability and progressive integration of this model into national public health policies.









Lyz overcame violence, forced marriages and abandonment to become a key pillar in her community.

Expelled from school during adolescence and left homeless while pregnant, she survived by begging on the streets.

Today, with a university degree in public administration, she leads the Elgon Foundation, a civil society organisation that supports people with albinism in Bugisu, Uganda.

The foundation is Beyond Suncare's main local partner in the country. Her story, a powerful example of resilience and leadership, continues to inspire our mission.

# UGANDA IN FIGURES



**395**

People with albinism received medical care across 9 districts



**62%**

Of beneficiaries were children and adolescents



**49%**

Of participants were women



**1.609**

Units of UMOZI MAX distributed



**20**

Skin cancer surgeries performed



**90**

Healthcare professionals received continuous training



**4**

Community radio awareness programmes broadcast



**27**

Dermatology clinics conducted



# MALAWI



## AREAS OF ACTION

- Prevention of skin cancer and treatment of skin lesions.
- Training and specialisation of healthcare personnel in albinism.
- Community awareness and engagement.
- Promotion of public policies for the rights of people with albinism.

Local and international partners:





BEYOND  
SUNCARE





# Consolidating to Endure



## Context and Background

Malawi is the country in Sub-Saharan Africa where, since 2014, the majority of human rights violations against people with albinism have been reported – accounting for 25% of all cases on the continent. Myths and superstitions surrounding the condition lead to abandonment at birth and violence. Daily discrimination, fear and poverty restrict their opportunities and reinforce social exclusion.

However, their greatest enemy is the sun: 90% of people with albinism die of skin cancer before the age of 30. **The lack of specialists severely limits healthcare in the country:** there are only two qualified dermatologists for more than 19 million inhabitants.

Since 2020, Beyond Suncare, in partnership with the Association of People with Albinism in Malawi (APAM), the Ministry of Health, and other stakeholders, has been implementing the Skin Cancer Prevention Programme. Today, this programme operates in all 28 districts of the country, becoming a national benchmark in public health and social inclusion.

## Prevention and Access to Sun Protection

In 2024, the programme consolidated its work through **480 dermatology clinics in hospitals and health centres across the 28 districts**. As a result, **2,321 people with albinism received regular medical care**. In addition, 16,592 UMOZI MAX sunscreens and wide-brimmed hats were distributed, ensuring continuous access to adapted sun protection.

Alongside healthcare, the clinics offered community education on the condition, self-care practices and early detection of lesions — strengthening skin cancer prevention and helping to reduce the social stigma that has historically surrounded albinism.

The impact was remarkable: **over 70% of beneficiaries improved their sun protection practices, and 90% reported greater self-confidence** and awareness of their health. This evolution demonstrates how prevention, when accompanied by proximity and continuity, can transform quality of life.

## Partnerships for Action

In 2024, we strengthened collaboration with four key local partners: MOHDEVS, which supports vulnerable communities; YONECO, which works for the empowerment of young people and women and the protection of children; MACODA, an organisation defending the rights of people with disabilities; and UPD, which promotes inclusion and equal opportunities. These partnerships made it possible to extend the reach of our activities, encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and increase the overall impact of our work.

## Training and Awareness

In 2024, **88 healthcare professionals from six districts took part in specialised training on albinism, improving their knowledge in diagnosis and photoprotection by 32%.** This was complemented by continuous training for the country's 36 dermatology and venereology officers, key actors in the early detection and referral of complex cases. This training was carried out during an event in Mponela (Dowa), aimed at updating professionals on the latest practices and advances in the treatment of dermatological conditions. At the same time, **awareness-raising activities reached over 27,700 people** through theatre caravans, community radio programmes and participation in the International Albinism Awareness Day in Rumphi. These initiatives strengthened prevention efforts and helped reduce stigma.











In Malawi, community theatre has proven to be a powerful tool to raise awareness and mobilise communities.

Through our partnership with Pace for Social Change, we use popular drama as a vehicle to deliver messages about skin cancer prevention, self-care and the rights of people with albinism.

These performances not only inform but also inspire dialogue, challenge harmful beliefs and promote greater social inclusion, becoming a true engine for collective transformation.





## Challenges and Outlook

The main challenge remains to guarantee equitable access to prevention and treatment of skin cancer for all people with albinism living in Malawi's different regions.

Many beneficiaries, with limited financial resources, must walk long distances to reach the clinics, which restricts regular attendance. Therefore, in 2025, we will continue to work towards decentralising healthcare, bringing it closer to the homes of people with albinism.

Another major objective is for the Skin Cancer Prevention Programme to become self-managed in the long term. For this reason, we continued to promote a proposal for local production of UMOZI MAX sunscreen.

To achieve this goal, greater commitment from government authorities is needed. Hence, in 2025, we plan to focus more on political advocacy, strengthening national health guarantees and achieving a systemic and sustainable impact for people with albinism in the long term.











“

I had a lesion between my eye and ear. Thanks to Beyond Suncare's support, I was referred for surgery in Nkhotakota, which was successfully performed. Today, I can live a healthy life and look to the future with hope.

Tobias, 21 years old,  
Programme beneficiary  
Malawi

# MALAWI IN FIGURES



**2.321**

People with albinism benefited from the programme



**480**

Dermatology clinics held



**14**

Skin cancer surgeries performed



**>90 %**

Of beneficiaries improved confidence and self-care



**16.592**

Units of UMOZI MAX distributed



**88**

Healthcare professionals trained



**27.772**

People reached through awareness activities

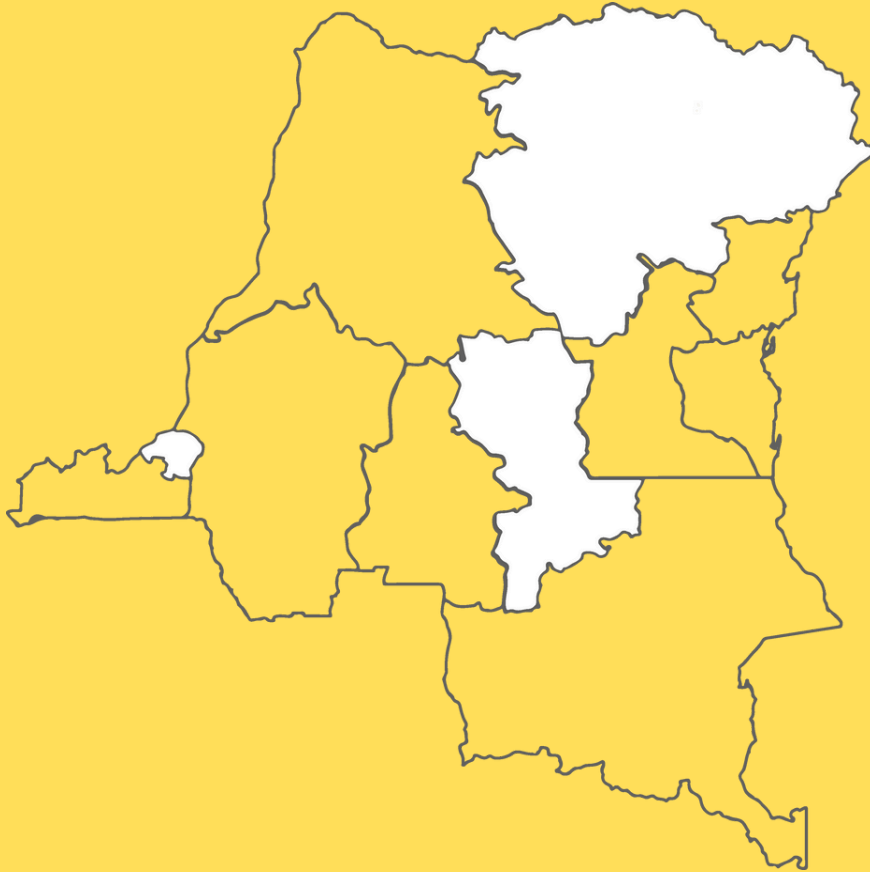


**14**

Awareness events held



# RDC



## AREAS OF ACTION

- Photoprotection and dermatological care for people with albinism.
- Training of healthcare personnel and institutional strengthening.
- Community awareness to combat stigmatisation and discrimination.

Local and international partners:

 Corbetta *RDC*





# Supporting to protect

## Context

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the incidence of albinism combines with **serious health deficiencies in the country**, placing these people in a situation of high vulnerability marked by discrimination, poverty and the lack of public policies that protect their rights. **The absence of state programmes and specialised dermatological services leaves people with albinism without protection**, meaning that skin lesions progress without diagnosis until they become serious cancers, causing dozens of deaths every year.

It is estimated that more than 18,000 people with albinism live in the country, with greater concentration in the regions of Kasai and Tshopo, where consanguinity is more frequent. Since 2021, we have been collaborating with Corbetta Foundation DRC, a Congolese organisation that leads assistance to this group and works in four areas: in the capital, Kisangani (Tshopo), since 2014; in Kinshasa since 2021; and in Mbuji-Mayi and Tshikapa (Kasai) since 2022.

## Prevention and Access to Photoprotection

In 2024, 198 people with albinism were assisted in Kinshasa and 234 in Tshikapa through six clinical sessions that offered medical check-ups, follow-up of skin lesions and the distribution of 480 units of UMOZI MAX.

Throughout the DRC, access to sunscreen is very limited, not only because of the scarcity of this product in the country but above all due to the extremely high selling price for a population that is mostly without resources. Furthermore, the creams available on the market are often not suitable for the skin of people with albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The clinical sessions also allowed people with albinism from both areas to create support networks, share their daily challenges and increase their self-esteem by dismantling deep-rooted beliefs in the region..

## Clinical Results

The clinical sessions made it possible to detect and treat a significant number of skin lesions. In total, 124 actinic keratoses were diagnosed and treated with cryotherapy, 48 additional treatments were provided, and 35 minor surgeries were performed due to suspected skin cancer.

Unfortunately, 15 people with skin cancer died due to very advanced cancers. Thanks to the joint work with local professionals and the coordination of Corbetta Foundation DRC, these actions ensured healthcare in a context of great limitations.

## Education and Awareness

Education and awareness formed an essential part of the intervention. **All the people assisted received guidance on the condition, photoprotection and mechanisms for the prevention of skin cancer during the sessions**, after which evaluation questionnaires were distributed and collected.

These evaluations showed a very positive assessment of the clinics and the messages transmitted. These actions helped to strengthen the confidence and social positioning of people with albinism in their communities.







## Challenges and Outlook

The project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is our youngest programme and continues to expand, focusing mainly on the distribution of sunscreens and support for people with albinism through basic clinical consultations.

The main challenges it faces are the lack of local production of liquid nitrogen, the shortage of medical equipment for cryotherapy treatments, the difficulty faced by people with albinism living in remote areas to access the clinics, and the lack of adequate health infrastructure for the care and treatment of the beneficiaries.

Looking ahead to 2025, Beyond Suncare and Corbetta Foundation DRC plan to strengthen their fundraising actions to consolidate the current activities and, if possible, **expand coverage to other areas, ensuring the free distribution of UMOZI MAX to all those who need it.**

Our current reach, although limited, represents the only opportunity for regular access to photoprotection and basic medical care for many people with albinism.











That day I attended a child with albinism who arrived after walking for several hours. His skin was damaged by the sun and had lesions that needed attention. Thanks to the support of Beyond Suncare, I was able to provide treatment, deliver sun protection and guide his mother. In a place where almost no dermatologists exist, every consultation restores hope.

Jean-Bosco Kalala,  
Nurse in Kinshasa,  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

# RDC IN FIGURES



**432**

People assisted.



**100%**

Of people attended received education.



**172**

Treatments carried out.



**480**

Units of UMOZI MAX distributed.



**4**

Referrals to major surgeries for advanced cases of skin cancer.

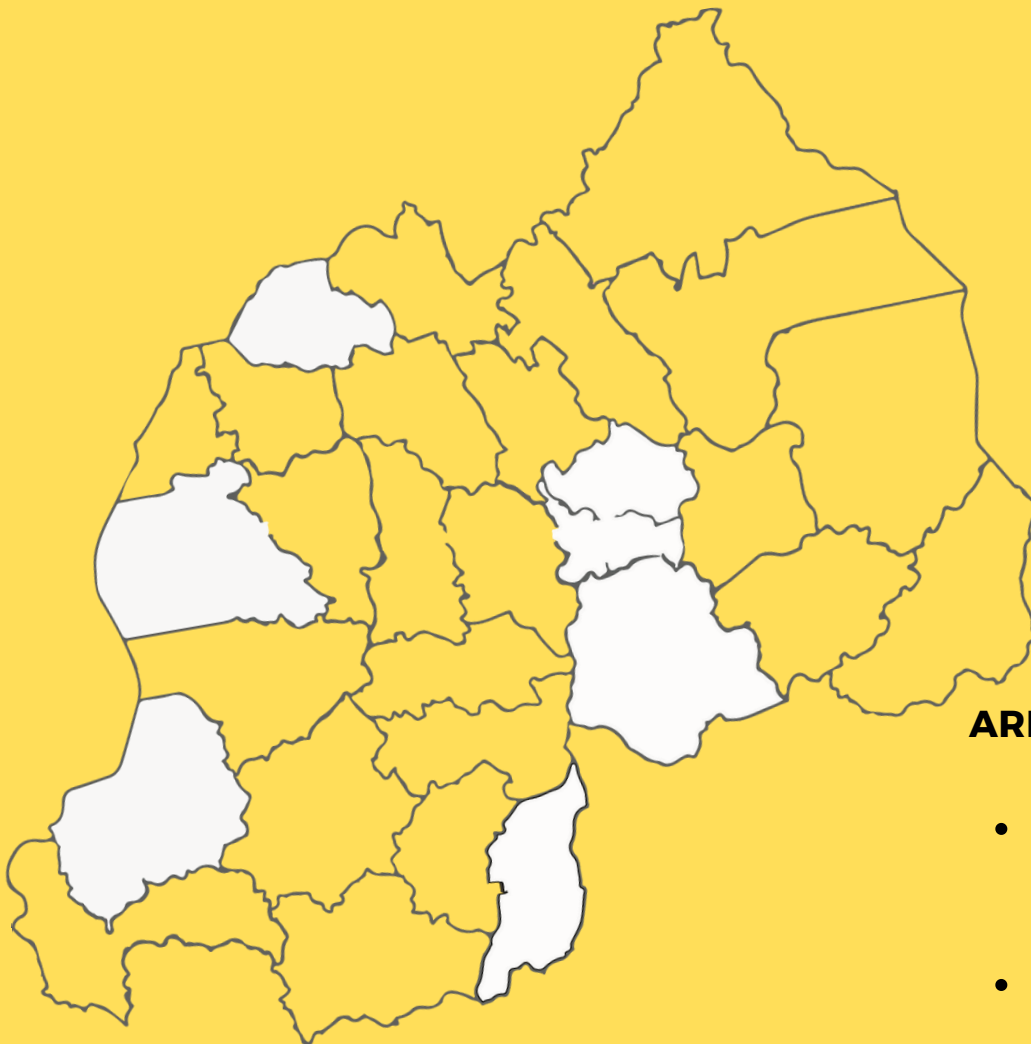


**35**

Surgeries performed for suspected skin cancer.



# RWANDA



## AREAS OF ACTION

- Prevention and treatment of skin lesions.
- Training of healthcare personnel.
- Distribution of adapted sun protection.

Local and international partners:







# Comprehensive care to heal

## Context and Background

In Rwanda, people with albinism continue to face marked health and social vulnerability.

Constant exposure to the sun, together with the lack of specialised services and adequate sunscreens, alarmingly increases the risk of skin cancer — the main cause of mortality among this group in Sub-Saharan Africa — in a country where there are only nine dermatologists, all of them concentrated in Kigali, far from rural communities. Added to this are discrimination and stigma, which hinder school, work and community integration, with an especially serious impact on women and children.

Since 2020, Beyond Suncare has worked together with Health Alert Organization (HAO) to reverse this situation, developing a model that combines prevention, medical care and awareness-raising. **Thanks to this partnership, albinism has become part of the national health and human rights agenda**, although there is still no specific plan to support these people.

## Prevention and Access to Sun Protection

During 2024, seven annual mobile clinics were organised in the seven district hospitals of Gisenyi, Gisagara, Kirehe, Rutsiro, Kicukiro, Bugesera and Nyamasheke.

In these, **454 people with albinism were treated, of whom 217 were minors**. Throughout these clinics, 1,362 containers of UMOZI MAX were distributed, sufficient for six months of use, in addition to wide-brimmed hats in the Kirehe district.

All the people attended were examined by healthcare personnel and received practical guidance on sun protection and self-care habits. These clinics not only provided medical care but also a space for support that allowed families to feel accompanied in the prevention of skin cancer for their loved ones.



## Clinical Results

The consultations made it possible to detect a total of 76 cases of actinic keratosis, all treated by cryotherapy, and to register 56 patients with severe burns for follow-up.

In addition, Beyond Suncare and Health Alert Organization supported the performance of two reconstructive surgeries for women with advanced tumours, in coordination with professionals from referral hospitals. These interventions restored health and wellbeing to the patients and highlighted the importance of early detection.

## Training and Awareness

The strengthening of the health system was another axis of the programme. In 2024, 40 nurses from Kirehe and Gisagara (23 of them women) participated in three-day workshops on albinism, photoprotection and early diagnosis. This training, which combined theory and practice, **made it possible to improve their clinical skills by 36%, increasing the response capacity in local health centres.**

At the same time, each clinic included educational sessions with patients and families, focused on self-care and prevention, applying the MVURA NKUVURE ("Treat me and I will treat you") methodology, which promotes community healing and the exchange of experiences, strengthening protection habits and promoting social inclusion.



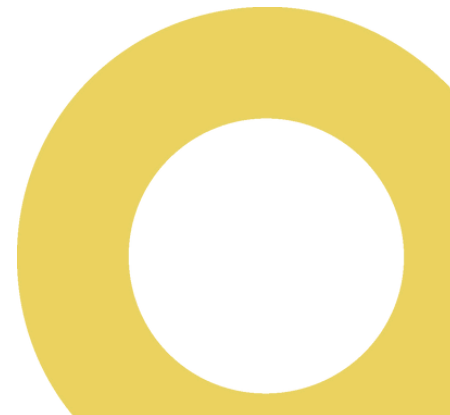




## Challenges and Outlook

In Rwanda, the main challenge remains **the shortage of dermatological specialists**, since there are only nine professionals in the entire country. This limitation reduces our capacity to respond to advanced cases and makes it essential to constantly strengthen the training of first-level healthcare personnel in early detection and care.

Looking ahead to 2025, Rwanda has been identified as a particularly suitable context to pilot a macro-level strategy. Its manageable geographic size, the relative stability of its health system and the ongoing commitment of Health Alert Organization to this issue make it an ideal setting to test and refine scalable interventions aimed at achieving systemic and sustainable change for people with albinism.











“

When my twin daughters with albinism were born, my husband and my own family turned their backs on me. I experienced immense loneliness, but thanks to the support of a community group, I found the strength to transform pain into hope. Today, together with Nicole and Nikita, I celebrate life through fashion and music.

My story is that of many women in Rwanda: a path of resilience towards a fairer and more inclusive future.

Olive Uwamariya,  
Mother of programme beneficiaries  
Rwanda

# RUANDA IN FIGURES



**454**

People assisted.



**48%**

Of those attended were minors.



**76**

People treated for actinic keratosis.



**2**

Reconstructive surgeries funded for advanced skin cancer cases.



**1.362**

Units of UMOZI MAX distributed.



**34**

Wide-brimmed hats delivered.



**40**

Healthcare professionals trained.



**7**

Dermatology clinics carried out.



# OTHER HIGHLIGHTED ACTIONS

The impact of Beyond Suncare is not limited to direct medical care.

In 2024, we took key steps in innovation, partnerships and international projection that strengthened the sustainability of our programmes. From promoting local production to geographic expansion and new strategic alliances, these actions consolidated a comprehensive model that transforms lives today and opens future paths for people with albinism.

# Other Notable Actions

## ○ Innovation in Local Production

In 2024, progress continued towards the local production of UMOZI MAX in Malawi, with the presentation of a proposal to Kamuzu Central Hospital and the Ministry of Health. The project remains in a preliminary phase and pending government commitment, but represents a key step to guarantee, in the future, the sustainability of access to adapted sunscreens in a country with one of the highest solar incidences in the world.

## ○ Expansion and Joining Forces

This year we expanded our reach beyond the countries where we work with the distribution of 500 units of UMOZI MAX in Zimbabwe, in collaboration with Alive Albinism Initiative. At the same time, we promoted political dialogue in Uganda, Malawi and Rwanda to ensure the inclusion of albinism in national health policies. Finally, we signed agreements with various entities in Malawi, incorporating civil society organisations in the defence of the rights of people with albinism.

## ○ National and International Projection

The year was marked by the opening of new locations. In May, we registered in the United States the Beyond Suncare Albinism Network, based in North Carolina, and, in parallel, opened a branch in Donostia-San Sebastián. Both openings strengthen our capacity for advocacy, awareness-raising and fundraising in Europe and America, thus expanding the global projection of our work.

## ○ Solidarity Alliances

In 2024, we had the support of social entities and companies such as Farmamoda, Parafina and Masikini, whose commitment made it possible to provide more resources to our beneficiaries and give greater visibility to our mission. These collaborations show how the involvement of committed brands can enhance our impact through donations, logistical support and dissemination, reaching more people.





# COMMUNICATE DISSEMINATE RAISE AWARENESS

We understand communication as a fundamental pillar to give visibility to the reality of albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa and to raise awareness among both local and international audiences.

Through campaigns, testimonies and advocacy spaces, we bring a reality that is often distant closer, with the aim of mobilising support and generating commitment.

We participate in international forums, expert debates and community meetings that strengthen our advocacy capacity. Each story and each action thus become an opportunity to awaken empathy and create a global support network for our mission.





# Scope and Impact

## Communicating to Raise Awareness

Our objective of raising awareness among the general public is reflected in actions that bring the reality of albinism closer to different audiences. Through educational posts on our social media, we show the challenges faced by people with albinism, especially in Africa, and how we support them to overcome them. In addition, our participation in specialised forums allows us to share the experience and learning acquired in the field in key areas such as health, education and pharmacy, combining digital communication and the dissemination of technical knowledge to generate awareness and promote inclusion.

## Media Appearances

In 2024, we strengthened our presence in regional, national and international media, consolidating our voice as a reference in health and the rights of people with albinism. The press and television echoed our work on 15 occasions through interviews, reports and articles that highlighted the impact of our interventions and how we support communities to overcome the challenges they face. This visibility represented public recognition that encouraged more people to join our cause.



**15**

**Media  
appearances**



**3**

**Awards and  
recognitions**



**+142 %**

**Growth of the  
Instagram  
community**

**IMPACT IN FIGURES**

## Digital Channels

In 2024, our presence on social media grew significantly. Our community on Instagram increased by 142%, with 65 posts focused on impact and awareness. We consolidated Facebook and Instagram as our main communication channels and used LinkedIn to connect with strategic allies, publishing 14 posts about partnerships and institutional work. Although Spain continues to account for the majority of our audience (68.6%), followed by the United States, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Argentina, these results strengthen our projection for the future.

## Events and Awareness

In 2024, we strengthened our presence in various spaces that gave visibility to the cause of albinism. A highlight was the participation of Mafalda Soto, our founder, in the Doers Talks in Málaga, where she shared Beyond Suncare's experience in the prevention of skin cancer and social inclusion in Africa, bringing our work closer to new audiences. We also took part in forums and debates with experts in health and human rights, which facilitated the exchange of good practices and positioned our model as an innovative reference. These activities broadened Beyond Suncare's public reach and reinforced awareness among participants.





# Media Coverage Examples



EL MUNDO

**The Galician pharmacist who sells natural cosmetics to help African people with albinism.**

An article about the journey of Mafalda Soto and her dual initiative: the NGO Beyond Suncare and the social brand UMOA.

[Link to the Article](#)



revista  
**haz**  
Periodismo que transforma

**“With our cosmetics, you take care of yourself while taking care of others.”**

Interview with Mafalda Soto about the creation of Beyond Suncare and the social enterprise UMOA, as well as their impact on the lives of people with albinism.

[Link to the Article](#)

BEYOND  
SUNCARE



EL INDEPENDIENTE

**Banco Santander recognises the work of social organisations in favour of the most vulnerable.**

Our project in Malawi to prevent skin cancer in people with albinism was supported by Banco Santander and the África Directo Foundation.

[Link to the Article](#)

### La farmacéutica Mafalda Soto habla en Work Café de su defensa de los albinos en África

Es cofundadora de la ONG Beyond Suncare y de Umoa, una línea de cosmética natural

RAC

A Coruña 19 JUN 2024 6:01

La farmacéutica gallega Mafalda Soto, una de las fundadoras de la ONG Beyond Suncare y de la línea de cosmética natural Umoa, hablará mañana a las 17:00 horas en Work Café Coruña (Cantón Pequeno, 1), de su trabajo para ayudar a los albinos en África. En algunas zonas del continente sufren discriminación y son víctimas de ataques u obligados a vivir aislados de sus comunidades. Sometidos a problemas de salud por la exposición a la luz del sol, "solo uno de cada diez supera los 30 años de vida, principalmente debido al cáncer de piel", indican desde Beyond Suncare.

La ONG desarrolla cremas solares diseñadas para proteger a personas con albinismo, y Umoa, creada en 2022 para generar fondos que financien la entidad, utiliza ingredientes 100% veganos, que en su mayoría proceden de la agricultura ecológica. Ninguno de los envases es...



El Copy Trading no es un concepto de inversión. Es un concepto de trading. Su finalidad es el rendimiento pasado no indica resultados futuros.

Encontrar estabilidad durante las fluctuaciones del mercado [Aprende...]

Las materias primas tienden a subir con la inflación. eToro y WisdomTree ofrecen una for...

© 2024 Market Universe

**La Opinión**  
A Coruña

### Mafalda Soto will speak at Work Café about her work in Africa.

News about Mafalda Soto's talk on the work of Beyond Suncare and the creation of the UMOA cosmetics line at Work Café Coruña.

[Link to the Article](#)

### Una crema solar para ayudar en África

PABLO PORTABALES  
A CORUÑA



**La Voz de Galicia**

### A sunscreen to help in Africa

Mafalda Soto presented the Beyond Suncare project and the UMOA line at Work Café Coruña, aimed at protecting the lives of people with albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[Link to the Article](#)

**BEYOND**  
SUNCARE



**EL ESPAÑOL**

### Doers Talks 2024

Mafalda Soto took part in the second edition of the Doers event in Málaga, sharing her experience in social entrepreneurship and the health of people with albinism in Africa.

[Link to the Article](#)



# AEDV 2024

## CENA SOLIDARIA

DE LA FUNDACIÓN PIEL SANA DE LA AEDV



Con la colaboración de:

**LV** Laboratorios Viñas



# Award and Grants

In 2024 we were recognised and supported by leading entities in health, international cooperation and corporate social responsibility. These awards and grants make our impact possible, allowing us to consolidate our programmes for prevention and dermatological care in Africa.

We received the support of key institutions and foundations, among them the Government of the Balearic Islands, the ADEY Foundation, the La Caixa Foundation, the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), the CRODA Foundation, the Barceló Foundation, the África Directo Foundation, and the Spanish Association of Paediatrics. Their backing strengthens our capacity to develop effective actions that protect and empower people with albinism.

In addition, we won the third international prize in the TELVA Solidaridad Awards 2024 for our project in Malawi to prevent and treat skin cancer in rural communities. We also received the Dermatología Solidaria Award 2024, granted by the AEDV Healthy Skin Foundation, and our project was one of those recognised by the “Euros de tu nómina” Solidarity Programme promoted each year among employees of Banco Santander.

2024

- TELVA Solidaridad Award
- AEDV Dermatología Solidaria Award
- “Euros de tu nómina” Award – Banco Santander
- Support from ADEY Foundation
- Support from CRODA Foundation
- Support from IFD/ILDS
- Support from Barceló Foundation
- Support from África Directo Foundation

2023

- TOP 100 Women Recognition
- YoDona Award
- Telva Award
- AEP College Award
- COM Ourense Award
- Grant from La Caixa
- Grant from Quirón Salud
- Grant from Barceló Foundation
- Grant from DermLink

2022

- Paediatrics and Health Foundation
- Spanish Association of Paediatrics
- Casares Solidarity Award
- ALBA Solidarity Fund

2021

- Gipuzkoa Medical Association Award
- General Council of Pharmacists Award
- DermLink International Foundation for Dermatology Award

2020

- ALBA Solidarity Fund Award for the Best Solidarity Project related to Albinism
- Alicante Medical Association Award
- DermLink International Foundation for Dermatology Award









# Awards

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**TELVA**

**TELVA Solidaridad Award 2024**  
**3rd International Prize**

Support for the project for the prevention and treatment of skin cancer in people with albinism in Malawi, benefiting 1,200 people (708 children) in 14 districts.

[Link to the Article](#)

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**Dermatología Solidaria Award 2024**  
**Fundación Piel Sana (AEDV)**

Support to guarantee quality dermatological care and strengthen prevention for women and children with albinism in Malawi.

[Link to the Article](#)

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**Euros de tu nómina" Award**  
**Banco Santander**

One of the 16 projects awarded at the national level, with funds aimed at sunscreens, surgeries and awareness-raising in Malawi.

[Link to the Article](#)

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# TRANSPARENCY

Trust is built through actions.

At Beyond Suncare, we assume accountability and institutional transparency as essential principles of our operations. We report rigorously on every action carried out, the resources used and the results obtained, because those who support us deserve to know how their contributions are transformed into real impact.

In this way, we strengthen the trust of our partners and ensure the sustainability and integrity of our programmes for the benefit of people with albinism.

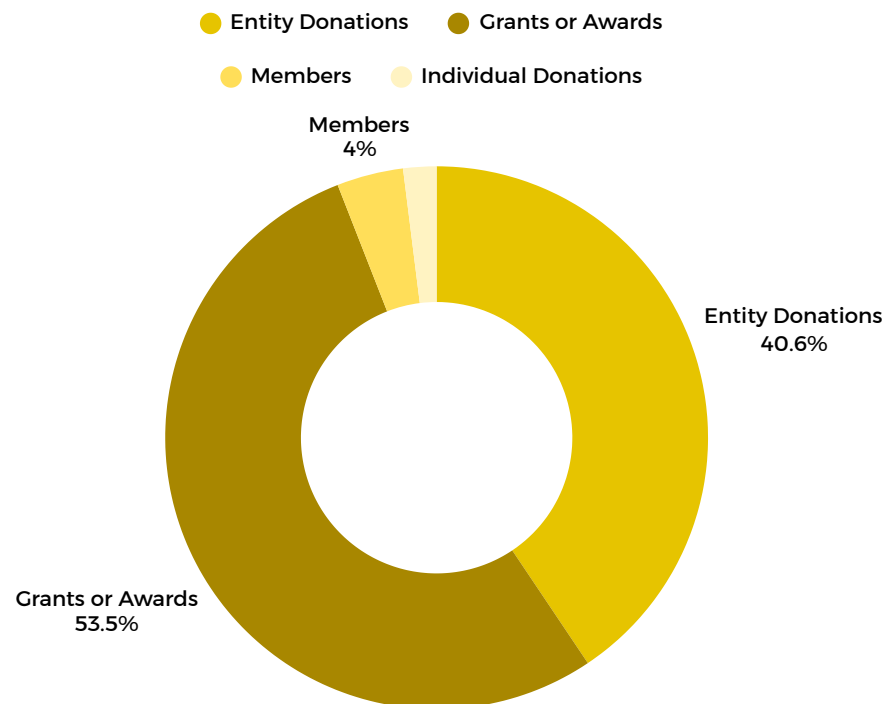




# Income 2024

In 2024, Beyond Suncare reached an income of €392,720.82, representing a **64% increase compared to 2023**. This growth was made possible thanks to the support of international entities, foundations and public institutions, which contributed 41% of the total. Grants and awards constituted the main source of funding (54%), reflecting the confidence in the solidity and credibility of our intervention model.

In addition, contributions from members (4%) and individual donors (2%) reinforced the value of citizen support. The combination of major institutional contributions and individual donations diversified income sources, strengthening the sustainability of our programmes.



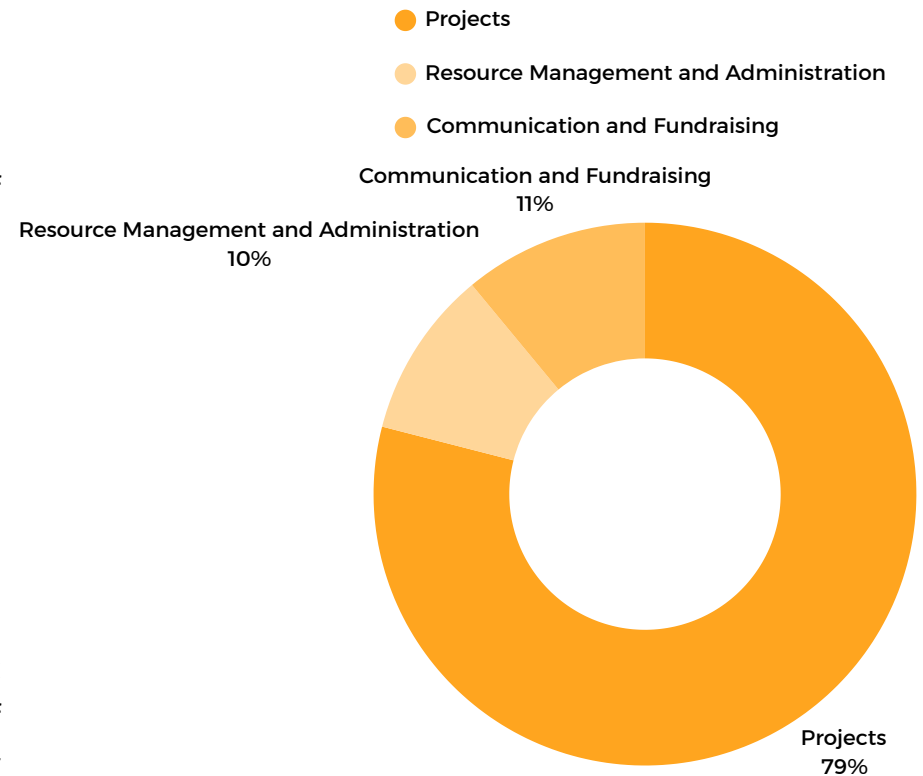
**392.720,82 €**

Growth of 64% compared with 2023

# Expenses 2024

Expenses in 2024 amounted to €374,627.98, **an increase of 49% compared to the previous year, in line with the expansion of our activities in Africa.** The majority (79%) was allocated directly to the execution of programmes and active projects, ensuring the implementation of dermatological clinics, the distribution of sunscreens and awareness-raising activities in the four countries where we work.

10% was invested in management and administration, ensuring efficient and transparent use of the funds received. Finally, 11% was devoted to communication and fundraising, key to giving visibility to our cause, strengthening awareness and mobilising new institutional and corporate partnerships. This distribution shows that Beyond Suncare's priority is direct action for the benefit of people with albinism, without neglecting transparency or financial sustainability.



**374.627,98 €**

Crecimiento del 49 % respecto a 2023



# OUR IMPACT IN 2024

In 2024, we developed our activities in Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, consolidating interventions that guarantee access to health and strengthen the protection of people with albinism.

We ended the year with the certainty that our work generates real impact, aligned with the priorities of the countries in which we operate, with the commitment to continue advancing towards a sustainable model that ensures the right to health and dignity for all people with albinism.

## Figures that Reflect Our Impact on the Lives of People with Albinism and Their Communities

Behind each number there is a face and a story. Each medical consultation represents a person accessing quality care in places where such services did not exist before; each distributed sunscreen bottle means a real possibility to prevent skin cancer; each trained professional multiplies the reach of the impact by carrying knowledge back to their community; and each surgical intervention restores health, peace of mind and a future to people with albinism and their families.

In 2024, thanks to the trust of our partners and the commitment of communities, we reached more people than ever. These results demonstrate that when efforts are united, it is possible to break the cycle of exclusion and move towards a fairer, safer and fuller life for people with albinism.



**3.602**

People with albinism assisted across four countries.



**20.043**

Units of UMOZI MAX distributed in dermatology clinics.



**254**

Healthcare professionals trained in dermatological care and photoprotection.



**323**

Skin cancer treatments and surgical interventions.



**514**

Dermatology clinics and educational workshops carried out.



**+35.000**

People benefited from community awareness activities.



“

**MUTU UMODZI  
SUSENZA DENG.**

“One head alone does not  
hold up a roof.”







# THANK YOU

**BEYOND**  
SUN CARE

[www.beyondsuncre.org](http://www.beyondsuncre.org)