



# Annual Report

A Post Pandemic Year of Positive Impact



**The St. Maarten Development Fund**

Contributing to a Society that Cares



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2024

The Supervisory Board of St. Maarten Development Fund Foundation (SMDF) confirms that the Management of SMDF has submitted the annual financial statements for the year 2022 to Stichting Overheids Accountants Bureau (SOAB) for their Auditing purposes. An unqualified Auditors opinion from the external accountant is contained in the Audited financial statements.

The Supervisory Board, in conformity with the stipulations within the Corporate Governance Code, reviewed with the Auditors of SOAB the contents of the Audited financial statement for 2022.

The quarterly financial reporting provided by Management through an external Accounting firm has been a good basis to execute the oversight role of the Supervisory Board over the Management of the Foundation in addition to the frequency of Supervisory Board meetings with the Managing Director during 2022.

The Supervisory Board unanimously approved the Audited financial statements for 2022 as well as the year report as prepared by Management.

The Supervisory Board of  
St. Maarten Development Fund Foundation





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its first 'post-pandemic' year of 2022, SMDF noted a significant increase in NGO activities. Afternoon school programs returned to full enrollment and elderly recreational programs reopened their doors, welcoming the senior citizens that had gone far too long without daily interaction.

Compared to the year prior where NGO expenditures were significantly below their anticipated budgets, 2022 was quite the opposite. NGO activities returned and many organizations saw increased beneficiary needs. Food pantries were wading through requests for assistance. Students were in greater need of meals at schools. Parents struggled with the costs of extracurricular activities for children and the list went on.

Concurrently the mass layoffs seen during the pandemic years had not been reversed with many residents navigating unemployment and underemployment. The resources needed to address these issues were greater than anticipated, however I am pleased to say that SDMF rose to the challenge, directing over ANG 3.1 million to NGOs - some ANG 356,000 more than budgeted at the close of 2021.

Through its own fundraising and income generation efforts throughout 2020 and 2021, SMDF expanded NGO funding and managed a free distance learning program all while maintaining its principles of financial efficiency in community development.



# FUNDING AND OPERATIONS (2022)

## Program and Project Funding 2022

For the year 2022, SMDF received a subsidy from the Government of Sint. Maarten. This subsidy, like in years past, was **ANG 3,587,673** for the fiscal year 2022.

## Operating Budget

For the year 2022, SMDF's Operating Budget, including personnel, housing, offices, and depreciation expenses was set at **ANG 816,340** with approval of the Supervisory Board. With a commitment to have all other funding income go toward program activities, the foundation's Operating Budget comes solely from its Government subsidy

## Funding Budget

Based on subsidy made available by the Government of St. Maarten, committed donations from other entities such as Windward Islands Bank in the amount of ANG 50,000, and surpluses retained at the close of fiscal year 2020, SMDF's Funding Budget for the year 2022 was set at **ANG 3,028,552**.

Additionally, Management and Supervisory Board made the noteworthy decision to channel income generated via the management of COVID Response programs towards NGO Funding.

This impactful decision directed an additional ANG **100,572** towards funding, bringing the total NGO funding budget to **ANG 3,129,124**.



### **NGO Unspent Funds and Balances in 2021**

By the end of quarter two (Q2) 2021, SMDF projected that a number of NGOs would end the year not having fully spent what was granted to them and disbursed throughout 2021, due to the suppressive effects the pandemic had on their programs. Underspensing by the NGOs in 2021 occurred in instances when organizations could not execute their regularly scheduled social activities (as was especially the case for the Youth Development and Senior Care programs).

As all NGOs continued to incur expenses until December 31, 2021, the actual balances were finalized in January 2022 when all December 2021 financial reports were received from the NGO clients. At the start of 2022, SMDF brought forward any balances from the year prior into the new 2022 grant year. This was done for the existing clients with approved Grant Requests to continue their programs and projects into 2022.



# HOW WE WORK

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*a year's overview*

# SUPERVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Throughout 2022, there were no changes to the members or composition of the Supervisory Board.

Additionally, within the Supervisory Board also exists an Audit Committee comprised of Louisian Wathey as Chair and Ahmed Bell as Member. The personal particulars of the members as of December 31, 2022 are as follows:

Member Name:	Age:	Function:	Profession:	Appointment:
Bary, Zylena J.	44	President	Attorney at Law	October 2014
Bell, Ahmed H. O.	41	Vice President	Managing Director Principle Accounting	June 2019
Wathey, Louisian R.	41	Secretary/Treasurer	Banking and Financial Advisor	May 2020
Forsythe-Labega, K. Claudette	71	Member	Retired Educator	May 2020
Violenus-Salmon, Zuleima J.	39	Member	Psychologist	May 2020

**Note: All members are of Dutch Nationality.**



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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The Supervisory Board and the Management of SMDF are in compliance with the Corporate Governance Code (CGC) as legislated in 2009 on St. Maarten, to govern the operation of Government owned companies and foundations. A Corporate Governance checklist is completed annually by Management for presentation to the Supervisory Board. In 2020, SMDF became fully compliant with all areas mentioned in the checklist with the creation of the Audit Committee comprising of the two Board Members with the Finance profiles.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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SMDF formally reports to the Government of Sint Maarten multiple times throughout the year via quarterly financial reports, formal meetings, and informal updates.

During 2022 in addition to reporting, communications were dispatched to the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Members of the Council of Ministers, and the Department of Statistics.

Due to the high value of work executed throughout fiscal year 2022, some reporting submissions were delayed, a matter that Management has addressed and is improving upon.

During 2022, the Government of St. Maarten deviated from the payment terms within the FMA which specified three (3) payments during the year. Government disbursed four (4) payments with the consent of SMDF for a total of **ANG. 3,587,673** for grant contract funding and operational expenses of SMDF.



## REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

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Management of SMDF has maintained, for a number of years, the policy that payments to client foundations would be executed on a monthly basis by the 21st of each month. Release of the monthly payments is predicated upon the client foundation submitting, by the 10th of the month, a report for the funds received in the month prior. Such a policy is contrary to other funding agencies and different to the subsidy policy of the Government of St. Maarten.

Each Foundation is required to submit reporting of their expenditures and a social report on a monthly basis, but prior to the 10th of each month. This procedure and policy allow SMDF to execute closer monitoring and provide guidance to the foundations with Grant Agreements.

Client foundations are appreciative of the policy as the reporting requirements strengthen internal control, reduces work for their accountants and facilitates cash flow management. In addition, client foundations execute more efficient and faster financial closure of projects at year end. During 2018, SMDF instituted a policy on imposing sanctions on clients delivering reports late or lacking completeness, in accordance with the executed General Conditions and Grant Agreements.

A reasonable number of client foundations reported satisfactorily within the time frames set by SMDF. An improvement on the quality and timeliness of reporting has been evidenced during 2022, and is evidenced in the Agreed Upon review of NGO expenses executed by a third-party.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

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## LEARN SMART

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One noteworthy expense area in fiscal year 2022 was the costs associated with the administration of the Learn SMART Program, executed in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.

A special two-year program executed along side SMDF's other programmatic activities, Learn SMART provided participants with free access to online learning opportunities via Coursera, one of the world's leading distance learning platforms.

With over 800 eager learners in the program, Management acknowledged the lack of internal staffing to respond to participant needs and retained dedicated human capacity for the program.

The cost of SMDF's administration of the Learn SMART Program totaled ANG 138,335, with the funds coming from organizational reserves.

SMDF's absorption of these costs ensured that learners were guaranteed programmatic support year round.



# Learn SMART: By the Numbers

## Learn SMART

11,065 courses in this program's catalog

### Most Popular Courses:

Excel Skills for Business: Essentials  
Bookkeeping Basics  
Preparing to Manage Human Resources

### Digital Transformation - Google Certificates

399 courses in this program's catalog,  
specifically Google certificates

### Most Popular Courses:

Foundations of Project Management  
Foundations: Data, Data, Everywhere  
Technical Support Fundamentals

## Civil Servants

4,214 courses in this program's catalog

### Most Popular Courses

Foundations of Project Management  
Bookkeeping Basics  
Business Writing

### Top Skill Sets:

Communications  
Public Relations Management  
Accounts Payable/Receivable  
Budget Analysis

# 800+

learners in  
the program

# 4K+

course enrollments

# 17K+

hours spent learning

# 21K

lessons taken



"To the Government of St. Maarten, thank you. This  
Learn SMART Program is a smart investment!"

Ingrid Fyffe, Youth Leader at St. Dominic Primary School



# WHO WE SERVE

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## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (7)

### PLANTING THE SEEDS OF THE FUTURE

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Alpha & Omega Projects Foundation   | After School Activity Program      |
| • Belvedere Community Foundation      | After School Activity Program      |
| • National Institute of Arts          | Arts After School Activity Program |
| • No Kidding With Our Kids Foundation | After School Activity Program      |
| • Stichting EGO Foundation            | After School Activity Program      |
| • St. Maarten AIDS Foundation         | Girl Power & Real Talk Programs    |
| • Voice of the Youth Foundation       | Youth Brigade Program              |

## SOCIAL CARE (10)

### SUPPORTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Ebenezer Community Center                | Mobility Repairs to Community Space    |
| • Excellence Learning Academy Foundation   | Special Needs School                   |
| • Foresee Foundation                       | NGO Capacity Building                  |
| • New Start Foundation                     | Foster Home                            |
| • Ujima Foundation - Day Treatment Program | After School Program for At-Risk Youth |
| • Ujima Foundation - Residential Program   | Residential Home for At-Risk Youth     |
| • SJIS                                     | Foster Home for At-Risk-Youth          |
| • White and Yellow Cross Care Foundation   | Activity For Care Home Residents       |





## SENIOR CARE (4)

### PROTECTING OUR ELDEST

- Enhanced Living Foundation
  - Senior Citizen Recreational Foundation
  - Home Away From Home Foundation
  - Helping Hands Foundation
- Elderly Home Care
  - Senior Recreational Program
  - Senior Recreational Program
  - Elderly Transportation Service

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION (4)

### PROVIDING FOR THE MOST BASIC NEEDS

- Bishop W.M. Ellis Foundation
  - Freegan Food Foundation
  - Maximizing Pupils Chances
  - Rotary Club SXM Sunrise
- Food Pantry
  - Food Pantry
  - Breakfast Program at High School
  - Breakfast Program at Primary School

## GENDER SUPPORT (1)

### EMPOWERING HEALTHY MEN AND WOMEN

- Safe Haven Foundation
- Domestic Violence Shelter for Women and Children



# PROGRAM GRANTS DISBURSED (2019 - 2022)

2019

*f*2,850,560

2020

*f*2,776,905

2021

*f*2,933,068

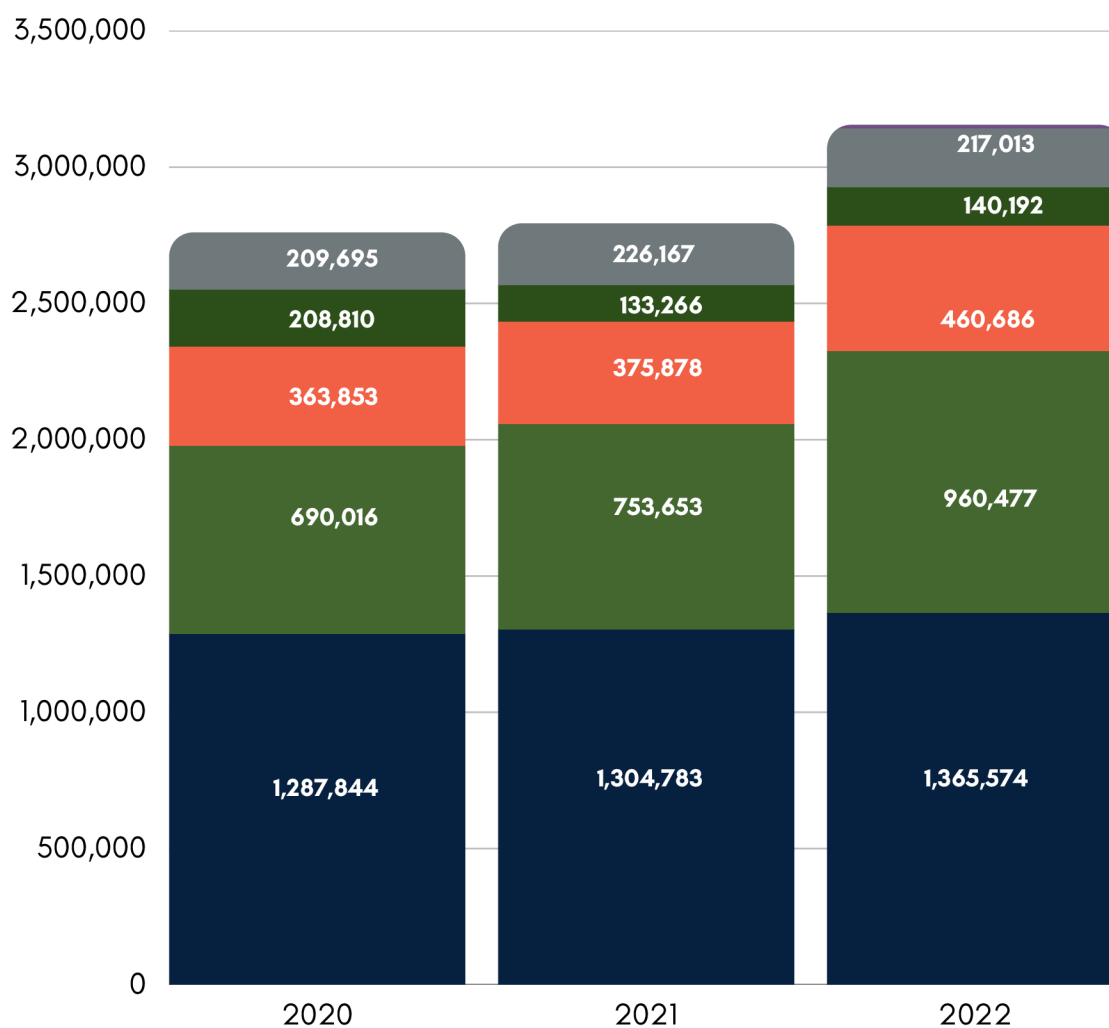
2022

*f*3,155,135

# YEAR OVER YEAR FINANCING

## 2020-2022 (ANG)

■ Youth Development   ■ Social Care   ■ Senior Care   ■ Poverty Alleviation   ■ Gender Support



f 2,776,905

Amount Disbursed  
in 2020

f 2,857,268

Amount Disbursed  
in 2021

f 3,155,135

Amount Disbursed  
in 2022



## FINANCIAL RESULTS OF OPERATIONS 2022:

As was the case with many organizations, including NGOs, SMDF's COVID-19 years saw fewer expenses, resulting in operational surpluses. These surpluses, including the 2021 surplus of ANG 191,798 meant that SMDF had a greater ability to both increase its NGO funding activities and execute its Learn SMART Program at no costs to participants or the Government of St. Maarten who contributed towards the licensing costs to our partner, Coursera.

For the execution of all of its activities throughout fiscal year 2022, SMDF expensed a total of **ANG 762,198** towards operating expenses. With this, the organization closed the fiscal year **ANG 54,142 below the approved Operating Budget of ANG 816,340.**

Within the year's results, areas such as housing, office expenses, general expenses, and board expenses were all well below budget.

Personnel Expenses were 1% or ANG 5,436 over budget due to overtime payments to staff for additional work done during the execution of the Food Assistance Program in 2021.



# FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

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# Youth Development

## ALPHA AND OMEGA PROJECTS FOUNDATION – AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

A small program geared towards the children of Sint Maarten's capital city, this program provided afternoon school care and language arts courses to a mixed cohort of students that come from varying backgrounds, many to migrant parents with no exposure to the Dutch language.

Considering that language arts remains a part of compulsory education on St. Maarten, this program was valuable to its beneficiaries.

## VOICE OF THE YOUTH FOUNDATION – YOUTH BRIGADE

In 2018, SMDF continued its grant making relationship with Voice of the Youth Foundation's Youth Brigade. What started years ago as a quasi-military program for juvenile offenders has grown to become a program to support teenagers and young adults during a pivotal stage of maturity via this structure. With more mentors offering guidance as well as a social worker to support these young people and their families, this program has become a star within our community. The Youth Brigade has been called upon by the Ministry of Justice to support its low-risk activities on numerous occasions. With 45 active participants, we expect this program to develop further in the coming years.



## NO KIDDING WITH OUR KIDS FOUNDATION – AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

In addition to its educational goals, the project also sought to improve the nutritional intake of the students and expose them to new foods, particularly in this time of highly processed foods. This was done successfully with the launch of their own inhouse garden where children are able to grow and prepare their own

## STICHTING EGO (SECEO) – AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Throughout 2022, SECEO remained the largest afternoon school activity program on St. Maarten. With activities in the largest elementary schools on the island, the program was intentional about providing a wide range of non-traditional education opportunities for the students, especially as they were just exiting 2 years of pandemic style interaction.

With a focus on experiential learning and learning through play, this program was instrumental in increasing child engagement for over 250 children across three large communities.

## ST. MAARTEN AIDS FOUNDATION – GIRL POWER & REAL TALK

The cornerstone of sex education on St. Maarten, the AIDS Foundation continued its 3 day Girl Power and Real Talk Programs trainings throughout all secondary schools on St. Maarten.

The impact of the program has been very much acknowledged in the community that it is now being hosted in two elementary schools as a small modified pilot to address teenage pregnancies and associated high school dropout rates. This pilot also focuses on sex education but for a younger audience between 10 and 12 years old.

Together, the foundation has reached over 750 students this year.





# Social Care

## COME CENTER – ADULT LITERACY, SENIOR OUTREACH AND FEEDING PROGRAM

With the decrease in COVID programming due to the reopening of our economy and the closure of the Food Assistance Programs, COME Center saw a decrease in its activities. Additionally, with many of the vulnerable that the foundation once supported finding employment opportunities themselves through the foundation's adult literacy program, COME Center saw a year of transition. With the decrease in food assistance activities, the foundation's main activity with the literacy program which provided English as a Second Language classes for some 22 persons.

## SJIS – FOSTER HOME FOR AT-RISK-YOUTH

After almost three years with just one foster home on St. Maarten, in 2022, SMDF facilitated the opening of a new foster home, specifically targeted for at-risk-youth who were unable to be placed in the care of others such as family members.

With care manuals designed by trained mental health professionals, including social workers, this home exists to support teenagers as they navigate life without a formal family structure. Staff with round the clock care, this home has positively contributed to child protection on St. Maarten.



# UJIMA FOUNDATION – THERAPEUTIC RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

With its fixed program intact, Ujima Foundation managed its Therapeutic Residential Facility without any hindrances to the program. The program ran within budget and met its targets, and sought to assist more youngsters, hoping to introduce a program for young girls.

As indicated by a number of locally issued statements and reports, there is a lack of psychosocial programs for teenage girls. Furthermore, with greater exposure to negative behaviors and actors, there are concerns about the protection of girls within our community. SMDF remains ready to support Ujima in its goal to realize a program to support young girls.



# Senior Care

## HOME AWAY FROM HOME – SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Home Away From Home Foundation maintained its history of providing uninterrupted senior outreach activities. With its goals to alleviate the loneliness that many seniors experience when they are home alone, the foundation was able to keep its senior group out of isolation with a range of weekly activities. With its own vehicles and volunteers, the foundation hosted an average of 78 seniors monthly.



# Poverty Alleviation

## ROTARY ST. MAARTEN SUNRISE – BREAKFAST PROGRAM

With reports from educators indicating that childhood hunger is on the rise, SMDF was pleased to support Rotary St. Maarten Sunrise in its efforts to bring breakfast programs to local elementary schools in the absence of a public breakfast or school lunch program. This efficient program which sees teachers preparing the breakfasts for identified students has supported approximately 76 children in its first year.



## FREEGAN FOOD FOUNDATION

Sitting at the intersection of sustainability, environmental protection, and social entrepreneurship sits Freegan Food Foundation. Throughout the year, the foundation collected and redirected what would have been food waste to over 720 beneficiaries, while also opening a buy 1-give 1 restaurant to improve its own income generation and future sustainability.





# Gender Support

## SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

Where the immediate onset of the pandemic brought upon an increase in the number of women seeking shelter at Safe Haven, the re-opening of the economy to tourism saw a decrease in calls to the shelter. While the number of women in the shelter decreased, the number of women seeking social emotional support outside of the shelter increased. Summarized reports from Safe Haven indicate that many women are afraid of leaving their homes during this time of uncertainty and would prefer external support and partner counseling, demonstrating a continued need to support women.





## The St. Maarten Development Fund

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*The St. Maarten Development Fund (SMDF) is a duly incorporated foundation on St. Maarten, actively working to improve the lives of St. Maarten's most vulnerable.*