



Africa Vertical, Inc.

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EIN: 82-0843418
Report Generated on: 06/17/2024

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Africa Vertical, Inc.




aka Zimbabwe Farm Project, Inc.



Washington, DC



<https://www.africavertical.org>



(202)669-6626





[View GuideStar Profile](#)



MISSION

We use social entrepreneurship to implement innovative, sustainable solutions for food security and renewable energy initiatives to facilitate organic farming. We are rebranding to Africa Vertical, Inc. as we continue to help African women increase food security and achieve economic independence. This name change reflects the universal aspects of our mission and the ability to scale and replicate women’s empowerment model across the Continent. Our comprehensive mission addresses sustainable agriculture’s economic, social, and environmental impact on women’s empowerment in Africa. Our program promotes a holistic approach to job creation and capacity building that fosters lasting change and improves the lives of those involved while contributing to a more environmentally responsible future.

EIN

82-0843418

RULING YEAR

2019

IRS SUBSECTION

501(c)(3) Public Charity

FOUNDING YEAR

2015

MAIN ADDRESS

700 12th Street, N.W. Suite 700
Washington, DC
20005

AFFILIATION TYPE

Independent Organization

CONTACT

Ayanna Nahmias, President
and Founder
(703) 872-9295
ayanna@africavertical.org

PRESIDENT/FOUNDER

Ayanna Nahmias

TREASURER

James Simmons, Jr.

BOARD CHAIR

Ayanna Nahmias

SUBJECT AREA

Disaster relief

Agriculture

Rural development

International development

NTEE Code

International Development,
Relief Services (Q30)

Agricultural Programs (K20)

Rural (S32)

PROGRAMS

1. Africa Vertical, Inc

Population(s) served:Economically disadvantaged people, People of African descent

POPULATIONS SERVED

- 1. People of African descent
- 2. Economically disadvantaged people

COMPLIANCE

- ✓ IRS Pub 78 Verified as of June 2024
 - ✓ IRS BMF 509(a) (1) as of June 10, 2024
- Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

- ✓ Board Practices Reported?
- ✓ Diversity Data Reported?

Programs & Results

PROGRAMS

Source: Self-Reported by Organization, June 2024

Africa Vertical, Inc

Population(s) Served:

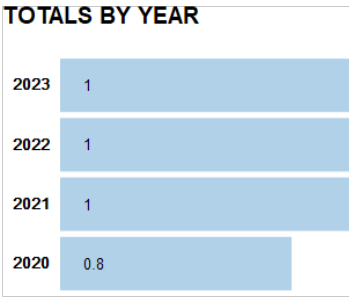
Economically disadvantaged, low-income,
and poor people
People of African descent

Our mission is to support families living in rural farming communities. We mitigate food insecurity with organically grown produce, solar power as part of our renewable energy initiative, sanitation and hygiene, clean water, employment, and women helping women.

Our international team works closely to build collective power for change through self-sufficiency and empowerment initiatives. We create sustainable solutions to address food insecurity through employment and women's empowerment initiatives for people in rural agricultural communities. Our mission facilitates program participants' ability to engage in the local economy to create financial independence in conjunction with donor support. We believe it is incumbent upon each of us to improve our lives and strengthen our countries by leveraging traditional sustainable living solutions, utilizing renewable energy, and investing in real people who will be empowered to uplift their families, communities, and nations.

RESULTS

Hectares of land that are (or are in the process of being) organically certified as a result of the nonprofit's efforts

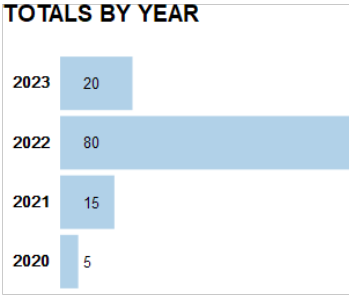


Population(s) Served: No target populations selected

Related program: Africa Vertical, Inc

Notes: The women of the project utilize traditional farming techniques to maintain organic and permaculture techniques. We will be seeking certification in 2024.

Number of trees planted

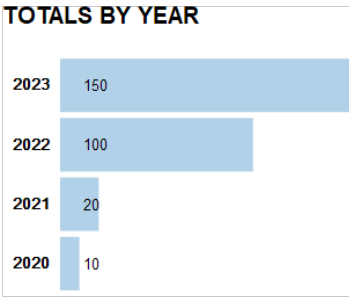


Population(s) Served: No target populations selected

Related program: Africa Vertical, Inc

Notes: To date, there are a total of 100 live macadamia tree seedlings planted on the farm. We hope to expand to 200 macadamia trees planted in 2024 to alleviate poverty and increase livelihood.

Number of animals with freedom from hunger and thirst

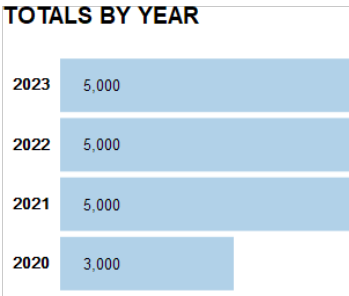


Population(s) Served: No target populations selected

Related program: Africa Vertical, Inc

Notes: The flock of egg-laying chickens is part of our organic and permaculture efforts. They have a dedicated 500-gal water supply, and are free-range, with a diet augmented with vegetables from the farm.

KwH of electricity saved due to the organization's services



Population(s) Served: No target populations selected

Related program: Africa Vertical, Inc

Notes: The farm uses 850 kilowatt hours/month to power the irrigation, poultry house lights, and electronics. Because the national power is often out, the 4000 (kWh) solar setup is critical to operations

CHARTING IMPACT

What is the organization aiming to accomplish?

Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility: Our program initiatives are rooted in the principles of sustainability and environmental responsibility. This includes introducing technology to optimize growing cycles and encouraging eco-friendly practices like waste reduction and resource conservation through permaculture techniques.

Financial Support and Empowerment: Through donor financial support, we can guarantee an income for the women involved in the project, especially throughout the harvest cycle, to help sustain their families. Additionally, providing organic farm produce and eggs for personal use demonstrates a holistic approach to our beneficiary support model.

Sustainable Agriculture and Renewable Energy: Our organization is focused on sustainable agriculture powered by renewable energy sources. This reduces the environmental impact, sets an example for others in the local agricultural industry, and aids in reducing our carbon footprint.

Promoting Self-Reliance and Leadership: Our mission extends beyond providing aid; it aims to create job opportunities, promote self-reliance, and empower women to become community leaders.

Partnerships and Self-Sufficiency: We emphasize the importance of partnerships as an alternative approach to traditional humanitarian aid, aiming to reduce dependency. By doing so, you aim to enable program beneficiaries to achieve self-sufficiency, empowerment, self-determination, and freedom.

What are the organization's key strategies for making this happen?

Our strategies are to build upon the existing infrastructure (solar power, wind power, irrigation, clean water storage) and replicating this model on other plots and farms in the area. Additionally, by expanding poultry farming to commercial-scale egg production the revenue from these activities would increase our ability to offer farming opportunities to women in underserved communities.

In tandem with these efforts, we have a strategy to continue to provide jobs in a country that is estimated to have unemployment as high as 80% due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the resulting shut-downs. This makes our project more valuable and in-demand because, in the rural community of Christon Bank which we serve, there are many people who have lived a predominately agrarian lifestyle which can only be sustained through farming jobs.

A concomitant challenge that our program seeks to remedy, is to deploy solar power irrigation to ensure consistent delivery of clean water from boreholes. Our clean water initiative once funded will be used to survey newly purchased plots, drill boreholes, install submersible pumps which would be solar power thereby ensuring consistent, clean water for drinking, sanitation, and irrigation.

Currently, most boreholes are powered by Zimbabwe's state power utility (Zesa) which recently imposed a rolling blackout leaving farms and households without electricity for up to eight hours daily. Without the ability to power the submersible pumps, water from the borehole is unreachable which can result in catastrophic crop loss. With climate change, the ongoing drought in the region has resulted in low water tables, however, with our Zimbabwean partnerships we will not only provide access to surveyors, drillers, and installers, we can engineer solar irrigation solutions which can deliver renewable energy to replicated projects.

Our strategy for achieving these goals will be through fundraising, sales of the proceeds of the farm, personal investment, and sweat equity.

What are the organization's capabilities for doing this?

In 2021, we created redundant water access by successfully drilling an 80-meter | 262-foot borehole powered by renewable energy. Our international team continues working closely to build collective power for change through self-sufficiency and empowerment

initiatives. We create sustainable solutions to address food insecurity through employment and women's empowerment initiatives for people in rural agricultural communities. Our mission facilitates program participants' ability to engage in the local economy to create financial independence in conjunction with donor support. We believe it is incumbent upon each of us to improve our lives and strengthen our countries by leveraging traditional sustainable living solutions, utilizing renewable energy, and investing in real people who will be empowered to uplift their families, communities, and nations.

We are partnered with Zimbabwean program management. Daily activities are directed and approved by U.S. program managers but are administered and implemented by the Zimbabwe team. Quarterly program oversight trips have confirmed the efficacy and success of the project and compliance with our mission.

Our international team works closely to build collective power for change through self-sufficiency and empowerment initiatives. We create sustainable solutions to address food insecurity through employment and women's empowerment initiatives for people in rural agricultural communities. Our mission facilitates program participants' ability to engage in the local economy to create financial independence in conjunction with donor support. We believe it is incumbent upon each of us to improve our lives and strengthen our countries by leveraging traditional sustainable living solutions, utilizing renewable energy, and investing in real people who will be empowered to uplift their families, communities, and nations.

What have and haven't they accomplished so far?

Accomplishments to Date

1. ☒ Installation of a 4000-kW solar power system for farming irrigation, lighting, and poultry farming.
2. Drilled second borehole – Successfully hit water at 262-feet/80 meters deep that powers the new submersible pump.
3. ☒ Planted 100 macadamia seedlings in an orchard to increase access to the international value chain. Upon maturation, improving market access, foreign currency generation, and increase in macadamia nut production in Zimbabwe's macadamia nut industry. However, it is still in its infancy, but we hope to catch the wave as this market matures.
3. ☒ Food Security – Successful annual harvests of organically grown maize, potatoes, sugar beans, sunflowers, cabbage, carrots, avocados, tomatoes, macadamia, and other vegetables.
4. ☒ Clean Water Initiative – Installed a water delivery system that provides access to clean water and 10,000-liter storage tanks, and an additional 500-liter tank for the poultry house.
7. Have employed hundreds of women in the community to work on the farm in a specialized capacity with poultry, macadamia, and organic vegetables.

Financials

Source: Self-Reported by Organization, June 2024

FISCAL YEAR START: Jan/01

FISCAL YEAR END: Dec/31

Revenue & Expenses

Revenue		2023
Contributions, gifts, and grants		\$11,196
Program service revenue including government fees and contracts		\$0
Membership Dues		\$0
Net Income from Special Events		\$0
Farm Sales		\$760
Total Revenue		\$11,956
Expenses		
Program		\$8,578
Administration		\$2,255
Fundraising		\$1,434
Payments to Affiliates		\$0
Legal Fees		\$240
Total Expenses		\$8,578
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Total Assets		\$9,500
Total Liabilities		\$0
Net Assets or Fund Balance at the end of year		\$12,878

Operations

Source: Self-Reported by Organization, June 2024

PRESIDENT/FOUNDER

Ayanna Nahmias

[LinkedIn profile](#)

Social entrepreneur and certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with 15+ years of demonstrable program and project management experience implementing and delivering technical and non-technical solutions. Negotiate strategic partnerships to provide managed services to public and private-sector clients as a consultant. Proven experience performing business analysis, non-profit founder and management, and international development. Highly skilled in project development focusing on sustainable living, women's employment, organic and sustainable agriculture, and renewable solar power.

TREASURER

James Simmons, Jr.

[LinkedIn profile](#)

Executive manager with 30+ years experience in local government managing complex, multi-million dollar public safety technology projects. Demonstrable program management experience implementing and delivering enterprise technology solutions. Created, developed, and awarded major government contracts, and managed multijurisdictional strategic alliances and partnerships to provide managed services to the public-sector agencies. Proven experience performing business analysis, international development, engineering and design, solar power installation, and certified as Bicsi RCDD.

BOARD CHAIR

Ayanna Nahmias

Zimbabwe Farm Project, Inc.

Term: 2020 - 2025

BOARD CO-CHAIR

James Simmons

Musella Consulting, Inc.

Term: 2020 - 2025

BOARD MEMBERS

James Simmons, Jr.

Musella Consulting, LLC

Ayanna Nahmias

Zimbabwe Farm Project

Sonya McGee

Mississippi Passport Initiative

Nagraj Baptla

Axis Technolabs

Marco Nahmias

Eco Living

Christopher Lindeman

Peregrine Advisors

STAFF

Staff Type	Name	Title
Employee	Charles Chirwa	Director, Program Manager
Employee	Keresenzia Maponga	Poultry Farm Manager
Senior Staff	Norman Shito	Accountant
Senior Staff	Alvin Kalira	Attorney

BOARD LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

GuideStar worked with BoardSource, the national leader in nonprofit board leadership and governance, to create this section, which enables organizations and donors to transparently share information about essential board leadership practices.

BOARD ORIENTATION & EDUCATION

Does the board conduct a formal orientation for new board members and require all board members to sign a written agreement regarding their roles, responsibilities, and expectations?

Yes

CEO OVERSIGHT

Has the board conducted a formal, written assessment of the chief executive within the past year?

Yes

ETHICS & TRANSPARENCY

Have the board and senior staff reviewed the conflict-of-interest policy and completed and signed disclosure statements in the past year?

Yes

BOARD COMPOSITION

Does the board ensure an inclusive board member recruitment process that results in diversity of thought and leadership?

Yes

BOARD PERFORMANCE

Has the board conducted a formal, written self-assessment of its performance within the past three years?

Yes

Organizational Demographics

Who works and leads organizations that serve our diverse communities? This organization has voluntarily shared information to answer this important question and to support sector-wide learning. GuideStar partnered on this section with CHANGE Philanthropy and Equity in the Center.

Leadership

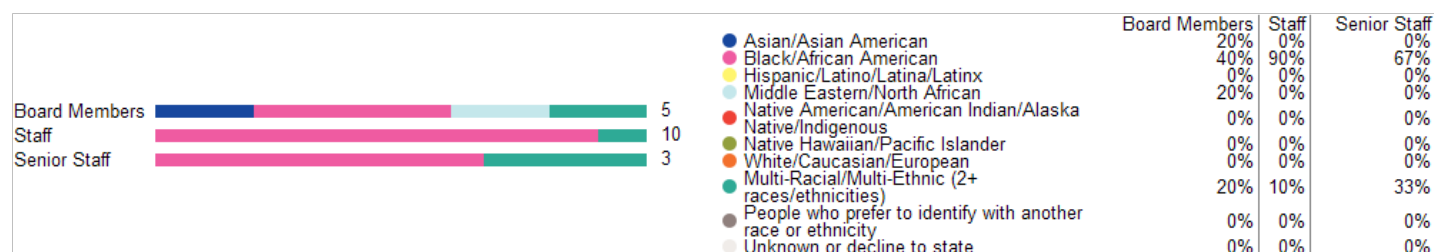
The organization's co-leader identifies as:

Race & Ethnicity	Multi-Racial/Multi-Ethnic (2+ races/ethnicities)
Gender Identity	Female, Not transgender
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual or Straight
Disability Status	Person without a disability

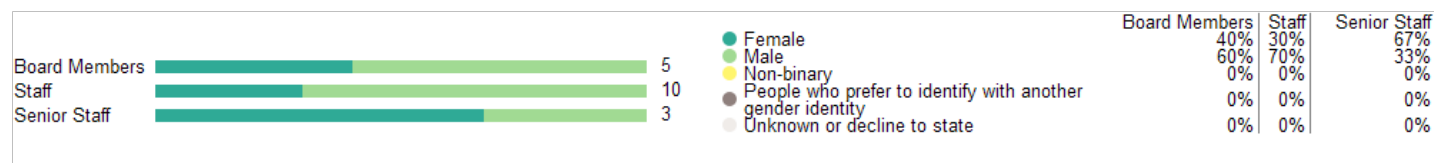
The organization's other co-leader identifies as:

Race & Ethnicity	Black/African American
Gender Identity	Male, Not transgender
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual or Straight
Disability Status	Person without a disability

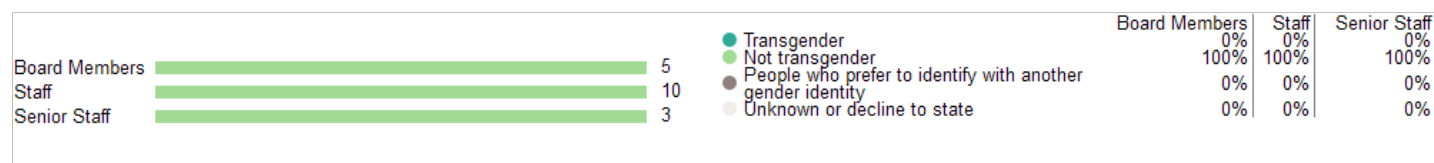
Race & Ethnicity



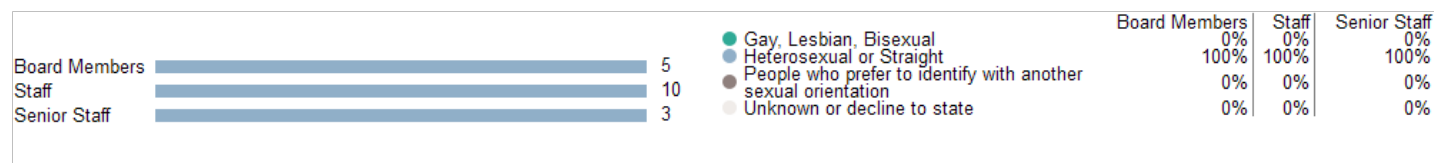
Gender Identity



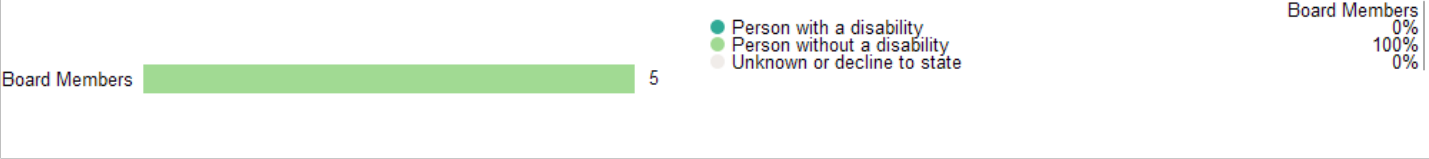
Transgender Identity



Sexual Orientation



Disability



We do not display staff or senior staff disability information for organizations with fewer than 15 staff.

Equity Strategies *Last Updated: 09/01/2020*

Candid partnered with Equity in the Center - a project that works to shift mindsets, practices, and systems within the social sector to increase racial equity - to create this section. [Learn More](#)

Data

- ✓ We disaggregate data to adjust programming goals to keep pace with changing needs of the communities we support.

Policies and processes

- ✓ We seek individuals from various race backgrounds for board and executive director/CEO positions within our organization.

Appendix

Key Documents		
IRS Forms 990		Not Available
IRS Forms 990T		Not Available
Audited Financial Statements		Not Available
Key Organization Documents		<div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Letter of Determination</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>2023 Annual Report</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>2022 Annual Report</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>2021 Annual Report</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>2020 Annual Report</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>2019 Annual Report</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>2018 Annual Report</div></div></div>

Africa Vertical, Inc.

Aka Zimbabwe Farm Project, Inc.

700 12th Street, N.W. Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

- ✓ Foundation Status Code: PC*
- ✓ Public charity described in section 509(a)(1) or (2)

IRS Publication 78 Details



Organization name	Location	Most recent IRS Publication 78
Africa Vertical Inc.	Washington, DC	June 2024
EIN	Deductibility status description	Verified with most recent Internal Revenue Bulletin
82-0843418	A public charity (50% deductibility limitation).	June 17, 2024

IRS Business Master File Details



Organization name	Most recent IRS BMF	Reason for Non-Private Foundation Status
AFRICA VERTICAL INC	June 10 2024	Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
EIN	IRS subsection	Ruling date
82-0843418	This organization is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity	08/2019
Foundation Code	Foundation Code Description	
15	Organization which receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or the general public	
This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list.		

On September 8, 2011, the IRS issued [regulations](#) which eliminated the advance ruling process for a section 501(c)(3) organization. [Learn more](#)

* The Foundation Status Code is the code that foundations are required to provide for each grantee annually on part XV of Form 990PF. Note that this code cannot be derived in some cases (e.g., supporting organizations for which 'type' can't be determined).

[IRS Revenue Procedure 2011-33](#) allows grantors to rely on third-party resources, such as GuideStar Charity Check, to obtain required Business Master File (BMF) data concerning a potential grantee's public charity classification under section 509 (a) (1), (2) or (3).

GuideStar Charity Check Data Sources

- GuideStar acquires all IRS data directly from the Internal Revenue Service.
- The [IRS Automatic Revocation of Exemption List](#) contains organizations that have had their federal tax-exempt status automatically revoked for failing to file an annual return or notice with the IRS for three consecutive years.
- [IRS Publication 78 \(Cumulative List of Organizations\)](#) lists organizations that have been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.
- The Foundation Status Code is a value derived by mapping the codes found on the [990PF filing instructions](#) to the corresponding codes in the IRS BMF. Note that not all codes are able to be mapped due to insufficient data.
- The [IRS Internal Revenue Bulletin](#) (IRB) lists changes in charitable status since the last Publication 78 release. Between the release of IRS Publication 78 and the subsequent IRS Internal Revenue Bulletin, the IRB date will reflect the most recent release date of IRS Publication 78.
- The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) [Specially Designated Nationals \(SDN\) list](#) organizations that are owned or controlled by targeted individuals, groups, and entities, such as terrorists or narcotics traffickers. Their assets are blocked and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from dealing with them.
- The [IRS Business Master File](#) lists approximately 1.7 million nonprofits registered with the IRS as tax-exempt organizations.