

RISEUP MALAWI, INC.  
A 501(C)(3) IRS RECOGNIZED NON-PROFIT  
LOS ANGELES/MALAWI

# IMPACT REPORT 2022





# OUR YEAR 2022

A LETTER FROM HUDSON MWALE,  
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF  
PROGRAMS

To all of our esteemed supporters- I am honored to have the opportunity once again to highlight for you how RiseUp has impacted the communities we serve in the Mangochi district of Malawi. Allow me to give you an overview of what God led us to do in 2022. The year started off promising as the world was recovering from COVID19- thankfully, because of this global recovery, RiseUp excelled in all our planned program activities.

I'd like to highlight four impact areas which have helped transform many lives of people in Malawi through your generosity and prayers.

This letter would not be complete without mentioning first the impact of our **girls empowerment retreat** (page 6). The two day retreat had a very significant impact on our girls. It was a great experience to see the girls sharing freely real life experiences among themselves. Many of our girls who come from poor family backgrounds thought that excelling with education was not possible and cited many challenges: lack of basic necessities like sanitary pads, soap, clothes, etc. Another challenge is long distance commutes to the nearest school (sometimes over a 10km walk one way). Because of these challenges, many girls in our community enter into early marriage to meet these basic needs, a choice that threatens their education. However, during the retreat, our beautiful girls were encouraged that these challenges, if navigated correctly, could be a stepping stone to great things in the future if they stay strong and focus on their studies.

Ellen Enock's story is another worth sharing (pg 3). I'm proud to tell you that we've put a smile on the face of a poor, young disabled girl by breaking cultural stigma through her enrollment in our secondary school scholarship program. Even though Ellen was born with cerebral palsy, Ellen has always said that **"my inability to walk and difficulty speaking wasn't my inability to learn."** There is such wisdom in her words! As an

organization, we recognize the right to education for every soul, disabled or abled. Which is why we are so proud to support Ellen and her education as she works toward reaching her dream of becoming a nurse.

Another major impact in 2022 was shifting our Farming God's Way program to a rural area about 16km away from where our main programs are based. Here, everyone depends on farming for survival. We weren't sure initially how our training would be received, but these rural communities ended up embracing the training with open arms. I've already observed first hand early fruits of our training when I visited their fields last month- their maize crops were doing incredibly well and looking very healthy. I'm very optimistic that the training will greatly impact their 2022/2023 crop production. Friends, what seems to be foolish to some people, to others is precious. **These student farmers have regarded our training and the new techniques they have learned as a true hidden treasure!**

In the last quarter of the year, I have seen God revealing to us something great which will help RiseUp implement its programs into the future with less dependence on foreign support. To increase in-country income generation, we broke ground on the construction of our future Umodzi guesthouse (page 2) in late October. **We look forward expectantly to the funds that will be generated from the guesthouse that we can reinvest back into our programs.**

Brothers and sisters, the above achievements could not have been done if not for your spirit of giving. Thank you for putting a smile on the face of Ellen and thank you for transforming so many individual lives in my community. This is teamwork at it's finest, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this mission. May the good Lord God bless you abundantly according to His heavenly riches. You are all a very important part of our RiseUp family.





# LET HOPE RISE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT + UMODZI GUESTHOUSE PROJECT

On August 22, 2022 we held our first ever golf tournament fundraiser, **Let Hope Rise**, at the Ridge golf course in Castle Pines, CO. It was a beautiful, late summer day with 88 players, 22 sponsors, and 12 volunteers who all came out to golf for good for our community in Malawi. Through registration, sponsorship\*, a raffle, silent auction and personal donations we raised an incredible \$38,500 towards Phase 1 of our Umodzi Guesthouse building project.

In October we officially broke ground on our Umodzi Guesthouse build, laying the foundation for the main dormitory structure and 3 private summer huts. Our guesthouse is located adjacent to our community center and will create long-term impact in 3 ways:

1. **In-country Asset:** Our guesthouse will provide critical in-country income generation from rentals

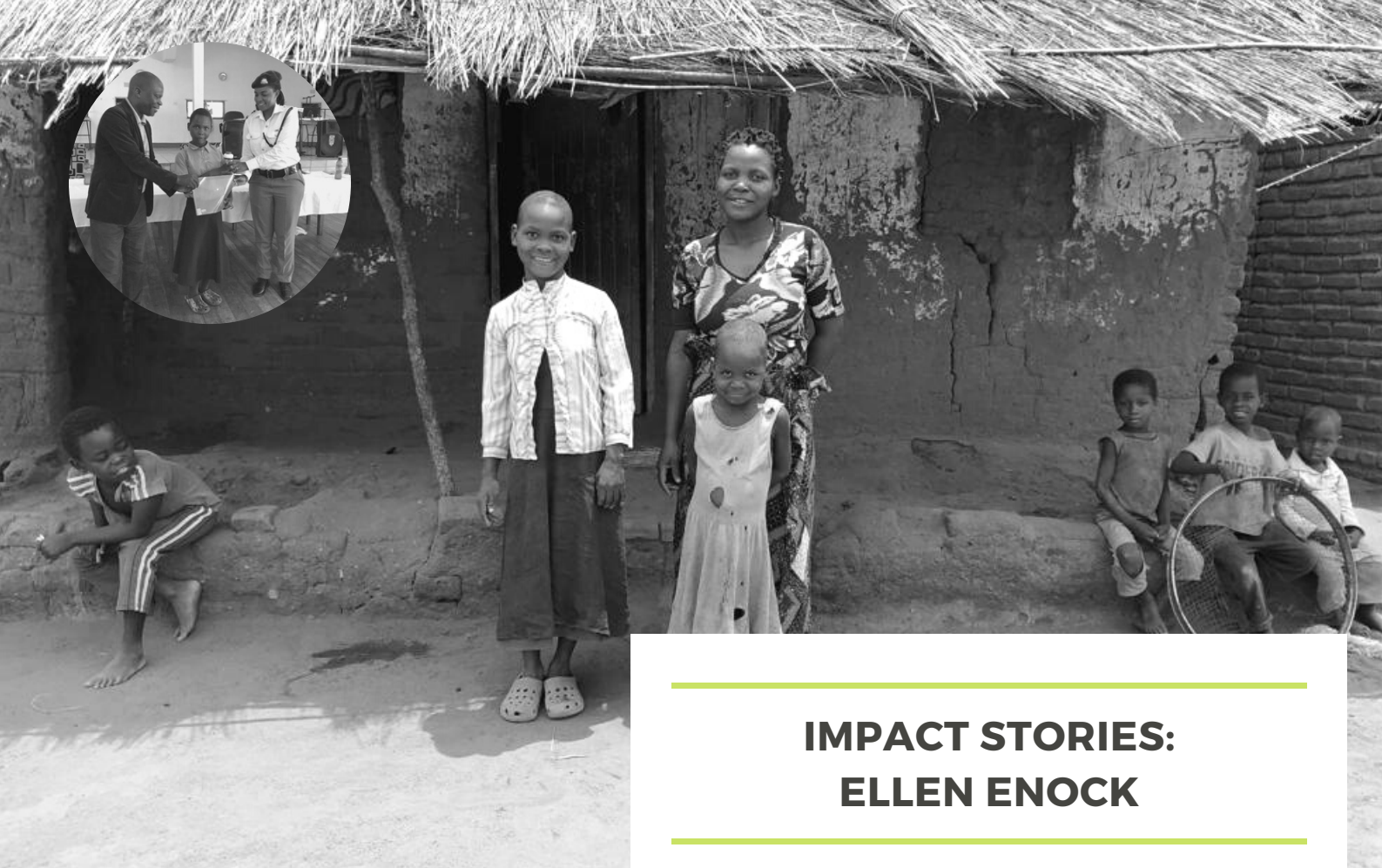
that will be invested back into our programs, lessening dependence on foreign donor dollars.

2. **Volunteer Accomodation:** We know that the best way for someone to become an advocate for our community is to have them experience our community firsthand. Our guesthouse will provide comfortable, low-cost accomodation for future volunteers.

3. **Job Creation:** construction & management will provide local employment and fair wages. Procurement of local materials & furnishings will benefit local entrepreneurs, reducing poverty and unemployment.

\*A special thank you to our Title Sponsor **Applovin'**, our beverage sponsor **Burly Brewing Company**, our coffee and cart sponsor **Redemption Road Coffee**, and the other 19 sponsors who rallied in support of our mission and helped make our first tournament a huge success.





**35%**

of children with disabilities will never attend school in Malawi. This is double the rate of non-disabled children.\*

\*"A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN MALAWI" (2011); Centre for Social Research, University of Malawi

\*\*Ellen also received the reward for "most hard-working" at our first annual girls empowerment retreat in April 2022 (photo inset), presented to her by Mr. Bassanio Kachere (Ministry of Education) and guest speaker Amina Tepani Daudi (Mangochi Police Public Relations Officer)

## IMPACT STORIES: ELLEN ENOCK

Ellen (left, pictured with her mom and little sister) was born in 2007 with cerebral palsy which affected her speech and ability to write and walk. Her mother had to carry her for the first six years of her life as she could not walk. Her father eventually left her mother because he did not want to raise a disabled child. Ellen's mother was left to fend for her four children by taking piece-work jobs which did not provide her with enough income for her family to eat sufficiently. Ellen's family was also shunned by the community as there is still a widespread belief in Malawi that it is a curse to give birth to a disabled child.

Ellen was denied enrollment in school initially, but her mother fought for her right to education. Even though she had so many reasons to drop out, including going to school on an empty stomach, **Ellen persevered, completing primary school and becoming 1 of 4 students in her class of 120 to be selected for secondary school (high school).**

When we learned about Ellen's acceptance, she'd already been attending our after school program regularly for 2 years.

Without hesitation, we offered Ellen scholarship at the start of 2022, determined to breakdown the stigma around disability by showcasing her extraordinary strength and resilience.

A brilliant young girl, Ellen is now thriving in a top 10 position at Lisumbwi secondary school.\*\* We couldn't be more proud of the example she's become to her peers and the greater community!





## IMPACT STORIES: LICKSINA KATUMBI

Licksina joined our farming God's Way (FGW) Program in 2020. She is a mother to four children and a career subsistence farmer, meaning she is dependent on rain-fed agriculture to feed her family. Before joining our farming training, her average annual maize yield had been 350-400kgs. This was never enough to feed her family until the next harvest season.

During her first season (2020-2021) Licksina diligently applied the FGW techniques she learned in our program and managed to produce a remarkable 800kgs. During the following season (2021-2022), her field yielded 1000kgs on the same plot of land. **In two harvest seasons, she managed to nearly triple her yield and now doesn't have to worry about running out of food to feed her family.**

Licksina has learned how to overcome the challenges of severe weather events through simple techniques she learned in our programs. She can't believe that for all those years her crops and family suffered just because she lacked knowledge of how best to manage her field.

She is now a proud, beaming mother who can provide for her children and who's land is a visual testimony of the power of FGW. We captured this testimony in the photo above where you can see her thriving, FGW plants on the left and her stunted, old-technique plants on the right.

Truly an incredible sight!



# 1/3

of Malawi's population is on the brink of extreme hunger due to severe weather events that have disrupted rain dependent harvests in recent years.\*

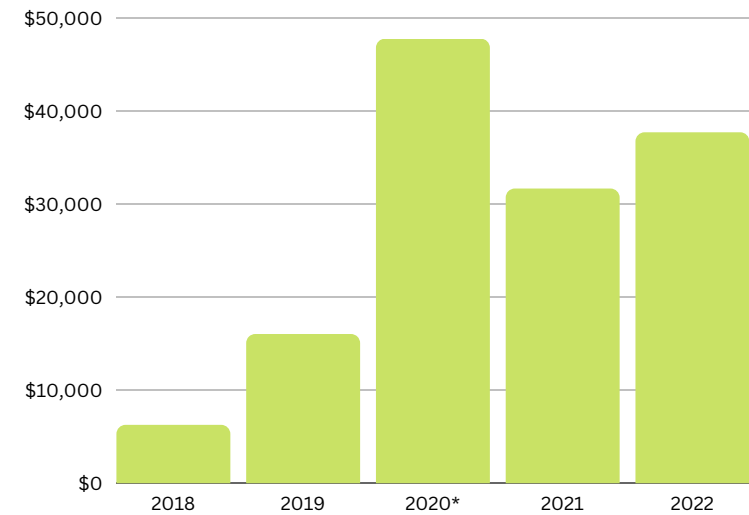
\*According to the February 2022 Malawi IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Report:  
[https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Malawi\\_ChronicFoodInsec\\_2022May\\_report.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Malawi_ChronicFoodInsec_2022May_report.pdf)

2022

# FIGURES OF PROGRESS

2022 was a fruitful year for RiseUp as our first annual golf tournament brought in an extra \$38,500 towards Phase 1 of our guesthouse build. Giving Tuesday was our most successful yet as we hit our goal early and even managed to surpass it with a match that put us at \$16,270 in less than 24 hours!

We were grateful to once again offset US admin costs in 2022 with a legacy investment. This means that as a supporter, nearly 100% of your gift went straight into our programs. All in all we invested a total of \$37,658 in the Malawian economy and our community last year. The graph below shows how much our impact has grown since we became an official 501(c)(3)- a remarkable 504% increase in just 5 years!



\*2020 was an exceptional fiscal year as additional funds were raised during a capital development campaign to build our community center

40K

number of individuals in Malawi who were directly or indirectly impacted by our programs

157

individual supporters from around the world (18% increase from 2021)

504%

increase in total in-country investment since 2018





# FIRST ANNUAL GIRLS RETREAT

## BUILDING UP OUR GIRLS THROUGH AN OVERNIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP, WORKSHOPS & INSPIRATION

In April, 45 girls from our monthly girls empowerment program spent an overnight together at the Mangochi Police Cottage, bonding over shared experiences of growing up in extreme poverty. Guest Speaker Amina Tepani Daudi (Mangochi Police Public Relations Officer) spoke to our girls, sharing her own testimony of rising out of poverty to find career & economic breakthrough. She encouraged our girls to focus on future opportunity by staying in school.

Other topics discussed during break out sessions were the importance of surrounding yourself with positive friendships, how to envision who you want to become, strategies for avoiding peer pressure, and HIV & cervical cancer awareness. Awards were also given in acknowledgement of some of our hardest working girls and they got to enjoy some laughs and dance moves during a group aerobic class. At night, our girls were inspired by William Kamkwamba as they watched the BBC production of the Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.

Other guests included our Guest of Honor from the Ministry of Education, Mr. Bassanio Kachere, & Bertha Bonongwe from AGE Africa who has been helping us develop our monthly girls empowerment program.

According to the World Bank, 87% of girls in Malawi will drop



*Our girls stand inspired behind guest speaker Amina Daudi and Bertha Bonongwe who both gave testimonies during our retreat.*

out of school before the age of 18. **That means only 13% of girls in Malawi will receive their high school education.** They'll drop out because of the burden of family responsibilities, child marriage, or unwanted pregnancies, to name just a few reasons.

In the second half of 2021, we launched our monthly girls empowerment program to address these barriers & give our girls a safe space to bond, find their voice, & focus on their futures.

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

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A little over a year ago I was traveling and I was in the airport when I saw this guy with a super cool hat that said "RiseUp" in really big letters. It was a great conversation starter and I asked him to tell me what it was about. He shared with me that it's this amazing nonprofit his wife started that supports people in Malawi. Africa has always been such a love for me, and even though I've never been there I hope to go on a mission trip to that continent one day. I ended up connecting with RiseUp Malawi in a really

big way- I became personal friends with the founder and **I decided to give and give on a monthly basis so they could better plan their budget.** I know it's great for organizations to be able to plan and to have consistent gifts they know they can rely on. I just love this organization, and hope that I get to visit their community one day!

**- Erica Tabor Razgaitis, RiseUp monthly supporter since 2021**





## **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2022 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS**

Applovin, Redemption Road Coffee, BURLY Brewing Co., One Hope Wine, StretchLab, Spirit Hounds Whiskey, Global Access Meetings, Willow Industries, Mark Muller Homes, Integrity Mortgage Co., Glow Comprehensive Dentistry, Old Town Dental, Digital323, Ohmart Orthodontics, BOK Financial, SSA Group, EML1, A Happy Place Travel Agency, Frontier Insurance, 5280 Dental Oral Surgery & Dental Implants, Laura Lee State Farm Agent, Bona Fides Laboratories, B. Generous, Telos EMF Limited, High Noon, Upslope Brewing, Rocky Mountain Sunscreen, Avid Golfer, VIB Brand, Breakthrough Regenerative Orthopedics, Anna Boardman Photography, Splendid Nutrition, Trader Joe's, Freedom Whiskey Co, Mike & Kiki Hommel, Andrew & Erica Landenberger, Mark Muller, Scott & Carrie Owens, Christie & David Demos, Julie & Shawn Maloy, Brooke & Doug Davis, Ashley & Tom McGuinness, Natalie & Ryan May, Martha Townsend, Debbie McGough, Kip Hunter, Joe Suhajda, Daniel Kleban, Chris Ryan, David Page, Nicole Welch, Jennifer Dunbar, Caite Mathis, Susan Owens, Wendy Whittaker-Large, Jim & Mary Peterson, Andrew Medal, David & Noelle Mathis, Brett & Courtney Pronin, Jessica Haynie, Erica Tabor Razgaitis, Nicki & Ben Duell, Kathi & Dan Stafford, Debbie & Nicole Slezak, Jonah Mahrer, Aubrey Petersen, Peter & Sandy Mathis, Tara Bereche, Cathy Gillman, Steven LeBlanc, Bridget Mathis, Nikki & John O'Toole, Jackie Klee, Lindsay & Mike Wildt, Lulu & Cortez Cooper, Denny & Elisa Salvaryn, Gloria & Fred Kevorkyan, Michael Shorts, Seth Curl, Mary Jo Brownell, Janice Wildt, Cleonice Anderson, Robin DeJourday, Dennis Parcels, Sahm Cho, Cheryl Schussler, Anastassia Kostin, Ali & Mike Ambrose, Danny Panciera, Lindee Daniel, Kyle Tateyama, Hollen & Geoff Wheeler, Carly Pippin, Katrina Win, Marte Hornby-Kristensen, Albert Garcia, Faye Nixon, Halle Redman, Milchu Perez, Dana Duenzen, Leslie Gold, Deedra Hamilton, Hannah Rinker, Serenah Rinker, Hilary & Tyler Goulding, Erik Henrikson, Ava Quail, & Rachel Abel