

RISEUP MALAWI, INC.
A 501(C)(3) IRS RECOGNIZED NON-PROFIT WITH PROGRAMS IN
MANGOCHI, MALAWI

IMPACT REPORT 2023





OUR YEAR 2023

A LETTER FROM MEGAN MATHIS,
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF
FUNDRAISING

In November 2023, I had the privilege of returning to Malawi to check in on our programs. Every time I have the opportunity to visit Malawi, I am greeted by a sea of smiles that reminds me this place truly is The Warm Heart of Africa.

Yet underneath the warm exterior of its people lies a troubling reality- according to a recent World Bank Report, Malawi remains the fourth poorest country in the world. From a big story perspective, it appears as if the country is actually regressing as more and more of its people fall into extreme poverty.

But there's a smaller story unfolding, one you won't hear in the news- the RiseUp story. It's the story of nearly 40,000 individuals across 14 villages who are experiencing generational transformation through the investment RiseUp has made over the past 6 years in educational initiatives. Here's a look at how our story continued in 2023:

Unexpectedly, our community was hit with back-to-back crises at the start of the year: just as the country was finally starting to get control of one of the deadliest cholera outbreaks in history, Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lived tropical cyclone ever recorded, slammed through southern Malawi. Thousands of lives were lost, homes destroyed and entire crop fields washed away.

Thanks to our amazing team on the ground, RiseUp was able to mobilize quickly and efficiently to provide emergency food and hygiene support to 270 individuals who were forced to evacuate to a government shelter. Our immediate interventions provided critical, lifesaving relief. If you ever wondered why we prioritize hiring Malawian staff, this is why- to have a strong presence on the ground who can act quickly in emergency situations!

Although the first part of the year brought great hardship, our programs brought great hope. **The 300+ learners in our free after school program are thriving, 16 scholars received full secondary school support and 2 new graduates, Naomi Charles & Samson Tim, were enrolled in university on full scholarship from RiseUp.** Please pray with us that we are able to grow our university fund and move further into tertiary scholarship as part of our mission.

Mid-year we launched a pilot financial literacy training program with the goal of improving household economic security. You can read more about this program on pg. 6 and the impact we are already seeing. **Overall output continued to increase amongst our farming training students**, reducing hunger amongst our children. We hired a new AD, Dickens Mahwayo, who came to us with over twenty years experience in the NGO sector and we rounded out the year with another hugely successful charity golf tournament, closing funding on Phase 2 of our guesthouse build just as the first phase was completed.

I'll never forget attending a Sunday service in one of our rural villages this past November. The second I walked into that tiny, cement church, I felt the presence of the Lord in a way I've never felt before. Here I was, welcomed to worship among some of the most economically impoverished people in the world. Yet despite their circumstances, these men, women and children sang praises and gave thanks to the Lord for over 3 hours! I was completely overcome. **This, I thought, is what it looks like to be steadfast, a word I'm holding close to this year.** *"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."*

As we move into 2024 and beyond it is my promise to you and all of our supporters that we remain steadfast in our mission and our commitment to humbly serving this remote corner of the world.

With gratefulness,



LET HOPE RISE CHARITY GOLF 2023 + UMODZI GUESTHOUSE PROGRESS

On August 21, 2023 we held a second charity golf tournament to finish funding on our Umodzi guesthouse build. **Let Hope Rise 2023 was another great success that brought together 88 players, 17 generous sponsors*, and numerous volunteers once again at The Ridge Golf Course in Castle Pines, CO.** We surpassed our first year tournament by nearly \$12k, bringing in over \$50,000USD that will allow us to complete our guesthouse build.

In October, we finished construction on Phase 1. This is the main guesthouse structure you can see pictured below. This building contains his & her dorm rooms (for up to 6 guests each), a full kitchen, dining area and patio. The property has been landscaped with fruit bearing trees including banana, mango, guava, avocado, masuku (sugar plum) & mpoza (sugar apple). The main guesthouse will be open for business this spring. Phase 2 will include

the construction of 3 private summer huts and should be completed by late fall.

The main purpose of this build is to generate in-country income that will be reinvested back into our programs and put ownership and agency back into the hands of Malawians. It will also provide a low-cost accommodation option for future volunteers and has already impacted the local economy by providing jobs and business for local entrepreneurs. Our goal is to host our first ever volunteer venture trip in 2025- stay tuned for more information soon!

A special thank you to our returning Title Sponsor **Applovin', our beverage and players' bag sponsor **Burly Brewing Company**, our hole flag sponsor **Redemption Road Coffee**, and the other 14 sponsors who came together in an incredible display of local support for our work.*





IMPACT STORIES: ACKIM YUSUFU

RiseUp scholarship student Ackim Yusufu (16) had every reason to drop out of school. His parents are vegetable farmers who struggle year after year to produce harvest because they can't afford insecticide to protect their vegetables from pests. No vegetable sales equals no cash—with eight mouths to feed, this meant growing up that Ackim and his siblings often went to school on an empty stomach and were lucky to receive a meal when they returned home. Ackim grew up with just one pair of trousers he had to wash and wear daily. They eventually grew tattered and he became ashamed of what his classmates would think. During rainy season, the thatched roof house Ackim lived in would leak and he would have to stand during the night, unable to sleep on the wet floor. Together all of these challenges became major barriers to education for Ackim.

Determined to overcome this hardship, Ackim started attending RiseUp's after school program when he was 10 years old. His school performance began improving from RiseUp's supplementary classes. **In 2021, Ackim became a RiseUp scholar and was honored this past year with position 1 out of 114 students in his Form 3 grade level.** *"Knowing my situation at home, I told myself to give everything to my education. After all the hardship I went through, I thank God for RiseUp Malawi. I believe that the dream I have of becoming a doctor will be fulfilled and that one day I will be helping my community in return."*

16.6%

Net enrollment rate in secondary school (high school) for all school age children across Malawi. This means 83% of children do not have access to secondary education.

*"MALAWI EDUCATION STATISTICS REPORT" (2022); Ministry of Education



IMPACT STORIES: JENNET MALOMBE

37 year old Jennet Malombe lives with her 3 children in Matuwi II, a rural village located up a dusty dirt road that's about a 5km walk from the nearest marketplace. Jennet grew up in a polygamous family- because there were so many children, her father gave up supporting her education, and she dropped out of school around the age of 13. She became a single mother after her husband left to look for work in South Africa and never came back.

Despite dropping out of school at a young age, Jennet is a student at heart and was one of the first participants in our farming training programs in her village. This past year, she impressed everyone when she doubled her maize yield from 20kg to 54kg. It came as no surprise when we launched our new Village Savings & Loans program (more on pg. 6) that Jennet was one of the first to join. At the time, her house had large cracks and a deteriorating foundation from seasonal rains. The condition of the house posed a great threat to her children; in fact, a part of it had fallen down, though no one was hurt. Through this new financial literacy program, Jennet received a loan that allowed her to construct a new house for her family before rainy season. **Not only has Jennet improved her children's nutrition and reduced hunger in her household, but her children no longer go to bed at night fearful of their house collapsing.** She is a living example of how investing in the education of just one willing individual can change the whole trajectory of a family and of future generations.

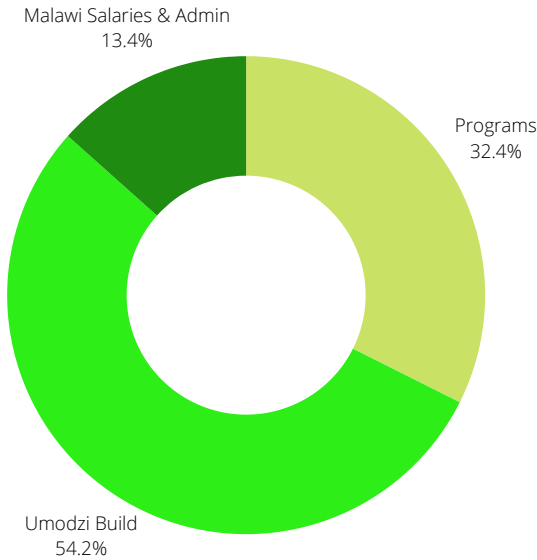
70%
of the population in Malawi
lives on less than \$2.15
USD/day. This percentage has
remained almost unchanged
since 2010.*

*"POVERTY & EQUITY BRIEF- MALAWI"(APRIL 2023);
World Bank Group

2023

FIGURES OF PROGRESS

RiseUp enjoyed abundant financial blessing in 2023 thanks to two major in-person fundraisers and another exceptional Giving Tuesday. Between our Burly Brewing fundraiser in February and our second charity golf tournament in August, we raised over \$55,000USD to complete our guesthouse build. We broke another record for Giving Tuesday, raising \$18,716 during this spectacular day of global giving (a 15% increase from last year). And thanks to the growth of our monthly supporters, we are moving towards a more consistent and predictable funding outlook for the future. **Once again, because of a legacy investment, US admin remained below 5% in 2023.** The chart below provides a breakdown of how we distributed the \$52,953 we invested in the Malawian economy last year.



630

active participants in-country across all RiseUp programs in 2023

83%

percentage of our farming training students who experienced a significant yield increase last harvest season

53K

invested in the Malawian economy (a 57% increase from last year)



NEW PROGRAM REVEALS PROMISING ECONOMIC IMPACT

IN MAY 2023 WE LAUNCHED A PILOT FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE. HERE'S HOW IT'S ALREADY CHANGING LIVES.

In early May, RiseUp launched a new initiative called Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLA) to a pilot group of 24 participants living in rural villages. First started by CARE International back in the 90's, this community banking and savings model has helped millions of people in developing countries access start-up capital & loans by forming groups & lending to one another. We knew that we had many rural community members who were smart and resourceful and had great ideas for launching small businesses. But like many Malawians, they didn't have access to start-up capital or loans through the local banks because of a lack of collateral.

Using the Emmanuel International Curriculum, we believed that the VSLA methodology could put economic power back into the hands of our people. Specifically, VSLA's have proven effective in:

- reducing dependency
- increasing incomes and livelihoods
- improving ability to cover medical and education expenses
- enhancing social networks and leadership opportunities
- improving self-esteem and management of the household, especially for women

The results from the first cycle have shown that 80% of our pilot



VSLA participant Chinsisi Nyali used her \$37.21 dividend to purchase a goat and invest in her business of selling doughnuts.

group (most of which are women) have benefitted substantially. From paying school fees to purchasing livestock and farm inputs and even building a new home, these pilot participants have proven the VSLA model is a unique and brilliant answer to a broken system. If we can foster economic security in the household, then the trickle down effect means our children can afford to attend and stay in school. A win-win for all!

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

“

We became acquainted with RiseUp Malawi through their charity golf tournament, Let Hope Rise, held in Castle Pines, Colorado in 2022. At the fundraiser, we encountered written and video testimonies of how RiseUp has dramatically impacted the citizens of Malawi. So many individual's circumstances have been transformed from dire to hopeful through the support of this wonderful charity. We knew we wanted to become a monthly supporter to support the amazing educational

assistance RiseUp is providing the children in Malawi. We know our contribution is really making a difference, something we haven't always felt in other charitable giving. Someday we hope to travel to Malawi to meet in person the beautiful people we've learned about through RiseUp.

**- Julie & Shawn Maloy, RiseUp
monthly supporters since 2022**





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2022 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

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