



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Rwanda Education Assistance Project

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FROM OUR FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The direct impact of COVID-19 on the education of children in Rwanda has been far-reaching. Not only did children not attend school but they did not have the technology at home to continue to learn.

In this light, we extended our commitment to literacy and early childhood education, by introducing an EdTech app called Ogstar. Ogstar Reading is a structured, multisensory, and gamified instruction, that encourages engagement with fundamental reading skills while promoting the joy of learning to read. Every lesson is research-based. To implement this program, we used 2021 as our training ground for teachers to learn to use technology, understand phonological awareness of English, and to build supplementary materials to strengthen the skills of English as a second language.

We were thrilled to watch our teachers learn, and sufficiently master the technology and skills of English as a second language to build a foundation to use this program. To complement this literacy initiative, we also supported the Kinyarwanda literacy of children by using the USAID curriculum to teach reading and writing.

As a nonprofit dedicated to building a model for uplifting one vulnerable rural community at a time, we were selected by the Rwamagana District to serve as a convenient space for the Musha community of 27,000 people. We were also elected to co-chair a community involvement working group of 15 other NGOs under the Rwanda Education NGOs Coordination Platform to mobilize field learning trips and facilitate collaboration among NGOs.

Girls Lead Our World (GLOW), our girls leadership club, participated in the International Day of the Girl Child and were introduced to the skills of digital literacy. The girls demonstrated the energy and passion necessary to become future leaders of their community.

2021 was a restorative year for us (following COVID). We introduced innovative technology for reading and learning and continue to strengthen the community to infuse hope and opportunity a brighter future.

I would like to thank the commitment of our donors, the passion of our employees and the support of our board to believe in our mission of building a vital rural community with education, employment opportunities and equity.

Edward Ballen
Founder and Executive Director

MISSION

REAP's mission is to create an **integrated** and **innovative** approach to community development that improves education and literacy, fosters socio-economic well-being, and strengthens public and mental health with the active support and leadership of the community.

Five pillars of our Community Development Model



“Uplifting rural communities one at a time, from a cycle of poverty and intergenerational trauma to a cycle of hope and opportunities.”



IMPACT OF OUR WORK

Early Childhood Education and Development

- 20 children graduated.
- 60 parents improved knowledge, attitudes and practices in nutrition, parenting, child protection, and maternal health.

Student clubs for health, girls' empowerment, leadership, and entrepreneurship

30 girls in the Girls Lead Our World club reported improved academic success and participation in community service.

Library Services

Over 300 children participated in our literacy enrichment activities. Our assessments showed a 20% increase in English language speaking and a 25% improvement in Kinyarwanda reading and writing.

Knowledge-based farming for increased productivity, food sufficiency, and nutrition

- 50 farmers increased nutrition knowledge, farming techniques and productivity.
- 60 families in Musha hit hardest by the impact of COVID-19 received food supplies from our farm.

Education methodology and literacy technology

- Five teachers received training in the Ogstar application technology and methodology.
- 14 iPads purchased and installed with Ogstar application.

Over 2,000 lives directly impacted.

Self-help groups for homegrown solutions

Over 300 community members in REAP-supported community self-help groups reported increase knowledge in public health, acquired family health insurance and improved financial management for better livelihoods.

Inezigaba sewing and tailoring

A 300-seat abandoned community center renovated, furnished, and equipped to serve as a community gathering space and tailoring workshop.

Saturday school for learning enrichment

All 263 students who attended regularly passed the national. 22 students scored high enough to enroll in schools of excellence.

High school scholarships

- 9 students received scholarships to cover tuition, school supplies, and transportation.
- 9 students participated in internships (tutoring, vegetable farming and English literacy).
- To date, over 70 students have graduated. These students are either in college, employment or run their own businesses.

Public and mental health education

Over 600 community members increased their public health knowledge and accessed vaccination and birth control services.

STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Emmy, 23

At the tender age of 10, when most children seek parental love, care, and support, Emmy's heart was shattered by the unimaginable tragedy of witnessing the brutal murder of all his siblings and his father at the hands of his own mother.

Despite the profound trauma, Emmy miraculously survived the horrific incident. However, he found himself separated from his mentally ill mother and subsequently adopted by a local orphanage. At the same time, Emmy's mother faced life imprisonment for her heinous actions.



In line with the government's de-institutionalization policy, Emmy had to leave the orphanage when he was only 18, to find a home and start a new life with limited resources.

Facing the harsh reality of life on his own, Emmy shared a residence with friends who, unfortunately, succumbed to the pitfalls of alcoholism and irresponsibility. It was during this challenging phase that REAP recognized Emmy's potential and hired him to train a group of adolescents, both in and out of school, in the art of traditional dance and drumming.

Drawing from their experiences of adversity, Emmy and his troupe use music, drumming, and dance to boost confidence, creativity, and hope to overcome the legacy of trauma.

The troupe, under Emmy's guidance, performs at weddings and other community functions to generate income to meet basic needs.

Interview with Chantal Mukamihigo (translated from Kinyarwanda),

Before my involvement with REAP, I was a “jobless wife” in the Musha community, grappling with the absence of a job. This often led to conflicts with my husband, the sole breadwinner, whose income struggled to meet our basic household needs.

Participating in INEZIGABA, a REAP-funded community sewing cooperative became a turning point for me. Becoming a member of the INEZIGABA Cooperative opened doors to



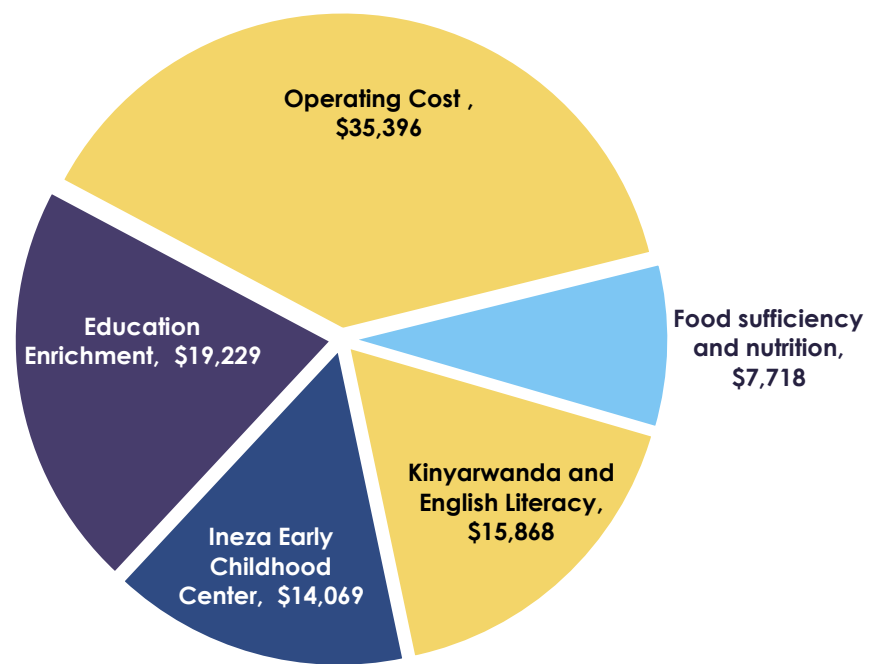
sewing skills. Leveraging these skills, I ventured into producing and selling school uniforms, eventually purchasing a personal sewing machine with the income earned. I set up the sewing machine in front of my house, where I create regular clothes for community members, sell fabric, and shoes. This entrepreneurial endeavor has become a source of income, supporting both my personal needs, and contributing to household expenses.

In essence, my journey with REAP has not only empowered me economically but has also strengthened the fabric of my family life. I am grateful for the opportunities provided by REAP's community development programs, which have allowed me to grow as an individual, contribute to my household, and actively participate in the betterment of our community.

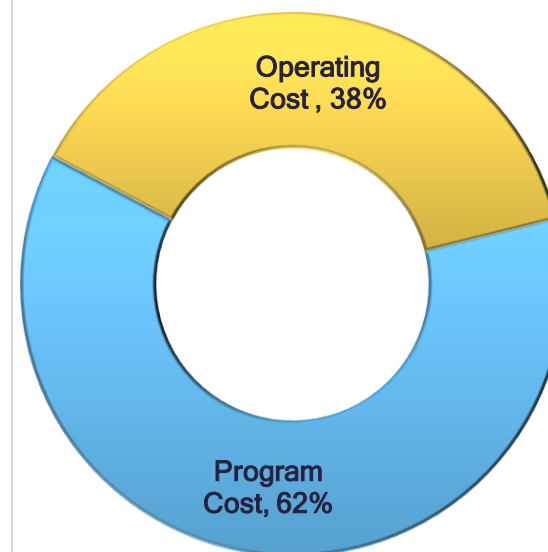
“Whenever women gain, we all gain as a country”–President Kagame on the international women’s day 2020.

FINANCIALS

Where your money goes...



Program versus operating costs



WHAT'S AHEAD...

INEZA MOBILE LIBRARY:

With the reopening of gatherings and community events following the pandemic and the introduction of full-day instruction in public schools, we are exploring a partnership with Rwanda BookMobile, to initiate literacy outreach in the coming year.

Through this initiative, we are planning to hire “reading riders”, who will ride bicycles to churches in the community and conduct read-alouds, proverbs and storytelling sessions with children at churches.





STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH:

With the renovation of the Ihuriro Community Center, a community venue space is now available to host various gatherings. Learning from the pandemic, we are entering a partnership with the University of Rwanda's School of Nursing and Midwifery and Musha Health Center to bolster our public health initiatives. Nurses from Musha Health Center and student nurses from University of Rwanda will conduct public health outreach events at Ihuriro community center. This will increase the prevention of diseases and access to health services such as vaccination and birth control in the community.

THANK YOU

Founder & Executive Director

Edward Ballen

Board

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