



# Annual Report

## 2022

# REAP

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## FROM OUR FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We began 2022 at a pivotal moment for REAP and the Musha community. In our effort to revitalize and uplift one community at a time, we initiated the renovation of a long-abandoned building. With a grant from the U.S. embassy, we established a sewing cooperative, named Inezigaba ("expanded kindness"), with 24 sewing machines, utilizing 18 women and 6 men of the community. We contracted with the local public school (Duha) to secure our market to produce school uniforms. Additionally, we trained high school girls to make reusable sanitary napkins to curb girls dropping out of school. These napkins, distributed to the neediest girls, helped these girls regain the dignity of proper hygiene to regularly attend school.

Our Tuseme Club (Let's Speak Out) participated in the district wide campaign against gender violence supporting the importance of gender equity. REAP's vision of uplifting one vulnerable community at a time allowed us to partner with Rwanda Book Mobile in a groundbreaking initiative to bring literacy into the community. The Rwanda Book Mobile supplied us with four bicycles. We then hired four part time staff, unemployed graduates of the Duha School, to travel to 7 churches in the community.

Accompanied with a bountiful supply of books as well as trained in read aloud and storytelling, these young leaders engaged and excited hundreds of children in the love of story and reading. REAP's ability to leverage our knowledge of the Musha community as well as to forge partnerships enabled us to strengthen our goal of community building. Most importantly, 2022 allowed us to build a more systemic approach for building an exemplar model of community development for Rwanda.

With enduring thanks to donors, our staff and board, I honor your ongoing commitment to uplifting one vulnerable community at a time from a cycle of poverty and trauma to a cycle of opportunity and hope.

Ed 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

- 15 children graduated.
- 60 parents improved knowledge, attitudes and practices in nutrition, parenting, child protection, and maternal health.
- 36 malnourished children freed from malnutrition.
- INEZA outdoor learning area launched.

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

REAP's student clubs were selected to perform educational songs and skits about violence against women during the Rwamagana District campaign against gender-based violence.

## Public and mental health education

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

## Education methodology and literacy technology

- Seven teachers received training in the Ogstar, a gamified and multisensory application.
- 100 students received yearlong English reading instruction using Ogstar.

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

65 farmers have collected 3,250 seedling and created household vegetable gardens to combat malnutrition, stunting and food insufficiency.

## High school scholarships

- 13 students received full-ride scholarships.
- 13 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.

**Over 2,000 lives directly impacted.**

## Saturday school for learning enrichment

Over 300 children passed the national exam with a 25% increase in pass rate from last year, and 98 of whom went to schools of excellence.

## Inezigaba sewing and tailoring.

A community Cooperative formed with 18 women and 6 men from the community, trained and equipped with 24 sewing machines and sewing supplies.

## Self-help groups for homegrown solutions

Over 300 community members in reported increase knowledge in public health, acquired family health insurance and improved financial management for better livelihoods.

## Library Services

- Over 400 children and parents engaged in various literacy activities at four community churches.
- 256 second and third graders from the Duha School increased their reading and writing skills by 29% through our Kinyarwanda and English literacy projects.

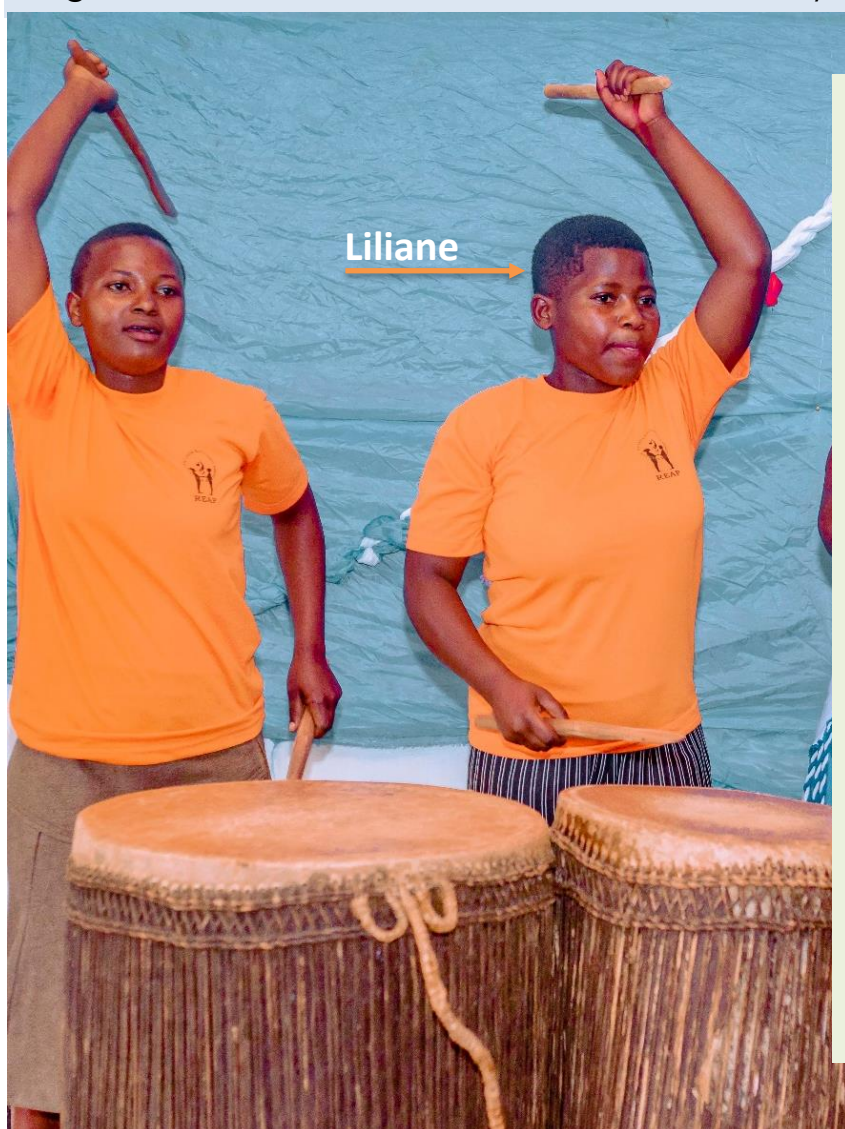
## STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Liliane Uwase, 17.

Liliane is the third child among a family of five. They live in a two-roomed house that the government donated to them after they had been homeless for 22 years. Her father suffers from a tumorous earlobe for the last 20 years. Unfortunately, surgery for the earlobe was unsuccessful and consequently he suffers with recurring violent mental behaviors and is not able to work.

Liliane's mother must work on neighbors' farms to barely feed the family. The family's struggle with health, feeding and housing underscores the challenges the family faces each day after years of adversity.

At the age of 15, Liliane was raped by a neighbor's herdsman, and contracted AIDS. Her child died at delivery. Liliane suffers from chronic backache, and migraines as a result of sexual assault and family trauma.



Last year, Liliane was recruited by our girl scouts' association, where she has been learning leadership and character development.

She is also a lead drummer in our traditional dance and drumming troupe, which entertains various community events to generate income while developing talents of the younger generations.

Being part of these two groups has increased her confidence, self-expression, and sense of belonging and lessened her lingering trauma.

At this pivotal juncture in her life, we are proud to be a small part of Liliane's transformative journey.

## STORIES OF RESILIENCE

Cynthia Uwera, 19.

Cynthia resides with her two parents and six siblings. Unfortunately, her father battles chronic stomach pains, limiting his ability to engage in strenuous work.

Consequently, Cynthia's mother shoulders the responsibility of working alone on the farm to eke out a meager daily meal for the entire family. The financial strain has forced Cynthia's younger brother and sister to abandon their education, as their mother cannot afford the necessary school expenses.

Facing her own challenges last year, Cynthia was on the brink of discontinuing her education due to a lack of essential school items like uniforms and sanitary pads. This predicament resulted in her missing up to a week of school every month during menstruation.

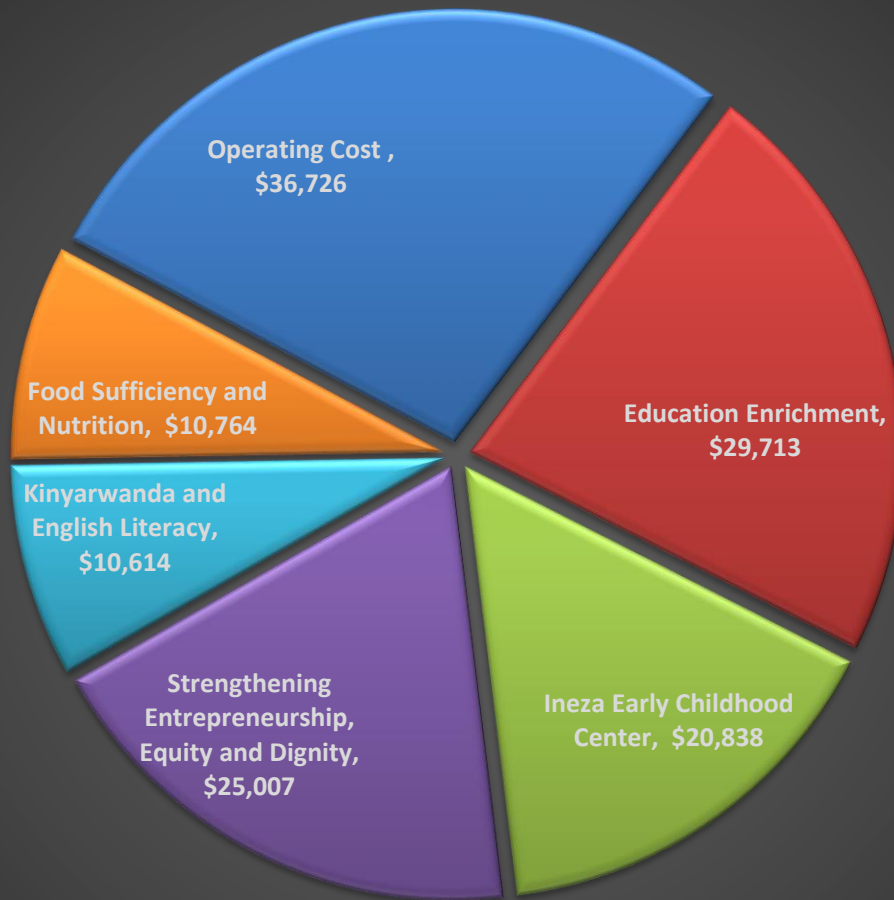


Upon learning about Cynthia's plight last year, we welcomed her into our Sexual and Reproductive Health Education Club. Today, she leads a group of girls dedicated to producing reusable sanitary napkins for the most vulnerable girls at Duha School.

In addition to her involvement in the club, Cynthia joined our Saturday tutoring program, enabling her to successfully pass the grade nine national examination. This achievement earned her a prestigious spot at a School of Excellence. Now in grade 10, pursuing sciences, Cynthia is expanding her opportunities for future academic pursuits or employment.

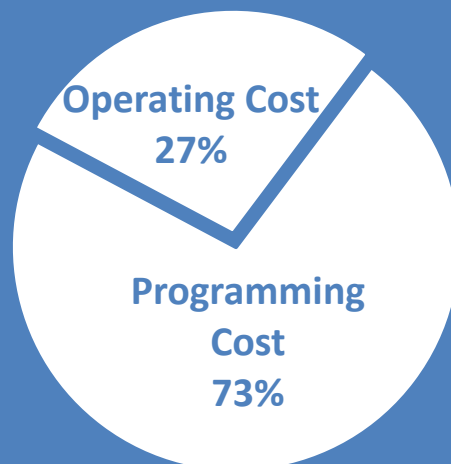
# FINANCIALS

Where your money goes...



- Operating Cost
- Ineza Early Childhood Center
- Kinyarwanda and English Literacy
- Education Enrichment
- Strengthening Entrepreneurship, Equity and Dignity
- Food Sufficiency and Nutrition

## PROGRAMMING VERSUS OPERATING COSTS



## WHAT'S AHEAD...



### MUSHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION...COMING SOON

In our ongoing commitment to fostering equity within the Musha community, we are excited to announce the upcoming launch of the Musha Alumni Association next year. This association will bring together unemployed high school graduates from underprivileged families, serving as a dynamic opportunity hub for youth to acquire valuable skills in project-based entrepreneurship, leadership, and community building.

Utilizing the power of technology, including internet resources and computers, the association will empower youth to access and navigate opportunities such as scholarships, internships, and employment. This strategic use of technology aims to bridge information gaps and equip young individuals with the tools they need for personal and professional growth.

In a strategic partnership with World Connect, the association will initiate and manage diverse business ventures, including photography, liquid soap making, talent shows, and Irembo services, with the aim of generating sustainable income. This not only enhances the financial independence of the youth involved but also contributes to the overall economic development of the Musha community.



# THANK YOU

## Founder & Executive Director

Edward Ballen

## Board

- Muhoza Rwabukamba
- Geoffrey Mutabazi
- Peter Schaffer
- Liz Eisenberg
- Judith Schmidt
- Tom Dente
- Jenny Lions
- Mark Schulman
- Sal Tripi

## Staff

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- Sandrine Umuhire
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- Laurent Bukibaruta
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- Laurent Nzeyimana
- Ijeneve Harelimana
- Florence Mukeshimana
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