



international needs  
transformed lives, changed communities

# 2022

## GRATITUDE REPORT



# THANK YOU!

From David Marshall, Executive Director

Dear friends,

The world opened back up again in 2022, and I was fortunate enough to visit a number of our global partners to get a sense of how things are going. I'm very pleased to report that despite a global pandemic, food shortages, and rising prices, **lives continue to be transformed in the name of Jesus**. We have wonderful, faithful partners who care deeply about the children and families under their care.

**But it wasn't all good news.** As we made our way through some very poor communities, **I was reminded just how difficult life can be under the grip of poverty**. I'm not going to share those stories here, but these experiences have infused me with a new sense of purpose and urgency. People are struggling, and they need assistance.

Recent statistics from the UN show that **decades of progress in the fight against poverty have been reversed in the last three years, and pushed** hundreds of millions back into extreme poverty. Sadly, it's the youngest, the most vulnerable, who bear the biggest burden, and **unless they learn otherwise**, get stuck in a system that's stacked against them.

Of course, we've had challenges here at home too, but you've continued to support us, surely a sign that the spirit is at work! With many charities closing their doors, I'm pleased to report that International Needs' **revenue has been relatively stable – thanks to your loyalty and generosity**.

Over the years many people have said to me: "The problem is too big – what difference can I make?" I'm so thankful that you, faithful supporters, see your role differently. You know that **every action you take against poverty is meaningful**. This report is about those actions – big and small – that you've made possible, to help stand with people living in poverty.



Children walking to school in Zambia

**"Children are more likely to live in poverty than adults. They're also more vulnerable to its effects."**

**UNICEF**





***CURIOUS*** *resourceful*  
*strong* *grateful*  
*intelligent* **GOD-FEARING**  
**self-controlled** **FAITHFUL**  
*confident* *capable*  
*healthy* **EDUCATED** **EQUIPPED**  
**EMPATHETIC** **optimistic**

# EDUCATION

## THE BEST TOOL FOR FIGHTING POVERTY

Education is widely recognized as **one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty** and improve economic and social well-being. But there's a catch: education is expensive everywhere in the world! In Canada, our taxes pay for school, **but in many developing countries, schools charge tuition and require students to wear a uniform.** Education simply isn't accessible to families living on \$1.90 a day, and some **parents choose to instead keep their children home to work** in the fields, or send them out to earn money in dangerous jobs. Deprived of education, these **children grow up without the essential knowledge** or skills they need to thrive in life. Our local partners are working hard to make

sure more children are able to attend school and learn **how to tackle the root causes of poverty.** Reading, writing, and math skills teach the children that they too have access to a future where they can be productive members of society. **This knowledge empowers them** to pursue a better quality of life.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**

**Nelson Mandela**

**Sponsorship Numbers**  
**1832 Canadians** supported **2174 children**  
 in **32 programs** across **8 countries**

# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

## EMPOWERING CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATION

Much of our funding comes from child sponsorship. For almost fifty years, **your monthly financial gifts** have helped children access education in a safe and healthy environment. The funds pay for tuition, uniforms, textbooks, **and life transformation.** As a sponsor, **YOU have helped to empower thousands of children** and enabled families to become self-sufficient, improve their economic status, and break the cycle of poverty into which they were born. Thank you!

Catherine from Kibera slum was a child sponsored through Homecare Spiritual Fellowship, our partner in Kenya. Catherine was able to attend high school and then Kenya Medical Teaching College where she's currently in her second of three years pursuing a nursing diploma. Her achievements have been a source of encouragement and an eye-opener for many in Kibera.

*“I've had a deep desire to help the sick since I was a teenager, and I decided I wanted to be a nurse. My family thought it was wishful thinking.”*



Sponsored student at ZACTS School in Zambia

## THE OUTCOMES OF SPONSORSHIP



Educated  
Minds



Healthy  
Bodies



Strong  
Character



Vocational and  
Life Skills

# GROUP SPONSORSHIP

## NO CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

**While we thank God for every single child transformed through individual sponsorship, there are also a hundred more unsponsored children** hoping for the same opportunity. This reality came into sharp focus in 2020, when the pandemic forced schools to close down around the world. During these closures, sponsored children continued to receive support, while unsponsored children fell through the cracks.

This is when we introduced a more inclusive group program. In the group model, **you and other donors come together to support an entire group** of 10, 50, or even 350 children in a program. Our goal is to leave no child behind. Just like traditional sponsorship, the group programs aim to teach the children about social skills, emotional regulation, relationships, honesty, integrity, and kindness. The goal is to help them become responsible, courageous, honest, and kind human beings, all through a spiritual lens.

Since 2020, group programs have been launched in Bangladesh, Ghana, and Zambia, with more coming soon. With the war in Ukraine driving up the cost of living, people living in poverty are being affected disproportionately, and **we feel a great sense of urgency to be as efficient and stewardly as possible** so that together we can make a bigger impact. If you want to help empower as many people as possible, **may I encourage you to consider this new group approach.** Thank you to our group sponsors!



Sponsored student in her classroom at Savar in Bangladesh

**Sponsorship = Empowerment**



Sponsored students at  
Savar in Bangladesh



**Group Sponsorship Numbers:**  
100 Canadians supported 725 children  
in group programs across 3 countries

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

As the children get older, we start preparing them for the workforce. Some go on to pursue higher learning at university, while others take up trades and become apprentices or entrepreneurs.

**Ephphata School for the Deaf** in the DR Congo was established for children and teenagers with hearing impairment. African society is not kind to people with disabilities, and children who are deaf are often marginalized. **At Ephphata, these children are given an opportunity** they wouldn't get anywhere else. The school provides quality Christian education, along with solid vocational training in carpentry, sewing, and computers, so **each child graduates with a marketable skill**. The school also allows graduates of the carpentry program to use the woodshop to generate income. I've had the honour of watching many children grow up at Ephphata, and it's a real source of joy for me to visit the school and see them **happy, healthy, and on a path to the future**.

At **ZACTS School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Zambia**, another vocational training program began in 2022, a co-op for mothers of children at the school. This project teaches underprivileged women how to grow maize for their families, and helps them develop a farming business that generates a source of income and teaches basic principles of financial management.



Boys in a carpentry class at Ephphata School for the Deaf



Tailoring class at Naogoan School in Bangladesh



Vocational training is an important part of our empowerment model. By learning tangible skills, the participants get better opportunities for employment, higher earning potential, greater self-confidence, and improved social mobility. By investing in their education and training, **you are empowering children for the future** and equipping women to have more control of the family's economic matters.

Canadian Medical Team participants, Lisa and Martina with students from the ZACTS School in Zambia.

# HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Children can't learn when they're sick or hungry, so our partners also place a lot of **emphasis on keeping the children healthy**. In addition to core education and vocational training, your support pays for medical care and nutritious meals, both of which are essential for physical / cognitive development and the prevention of malnutrition and disease.



In 2022, two teams of Canadian doctors, nurses, health practitioners, and other volunteers went on **medical outreaches to work alongside doctors and nurses in Ghana and Zambia**. On these trips, they provided primary care to thousands of school children and family members in communities that have limited access to health care. The services included education, screening, prevention, treatment, and referrals to specialists or hospitals.

**I'd like to say a special thank you to Dr. Neal Stretch and Dr. Rebecca Kruisselbrink** for their willingness to lead these outreaches for so many years, and for helping so many people! There's another trip planned in October 2023, this time to Bangladesh. We'd love to see you there if you're interested in a life-changing experience. For more information, visit [internationalneeds.ca](https://internationalneeds.ca).



## ZAMBIA

Provided health checkups, medicine, toothbrushes, eye glasses and vitamins

- 8 days
- 1 school
- 1250 children from ZACTS school
- 100 moms, dads, and babies from the village



## GHANA

Provided medical care, deworming medicine and advice to the community.

- 13 days
- 8 schools
- 1510 children
- 1190 adults

# CHILD PROTECTION

STANDING UP FOR THE POWERLESS



Protecting children is a central theme for us at International Needs, because wherever there's poverty, children are at risk of exploitation, neglect, and abuse.

In Bangladesh, it's not uncommon for desperate **parents to sell their young girls into child marriage as early as 13 or 14**. These girls become mothers and housewives, and never have the opportunity to finish school or experience anything else life has to offer. International Needs schools, like Savar Children's Village, offer **a safe place for girls to learn and grow**, without the fear of being forced into marriage.

**Child labour is another serious issue in Bangladesh**; it deprives boys and girls of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend school, and impacts their mental, physical, and social well-being. Street children, many of whom have been abandoned or orphaned, work in dangerous jobs for low pay just to survive. International Needs Bangladesh opened **a new drop-in centre at Kamlapur Rail Station** in 2022 where there are many child labourers. The centre offers hot meals, informal education, and a loving environment for the children who live and work at the station.



**In Kawangware slum, Kenya, physical and sexual abuse are rampant**, and have devastating physical and emotional consequences on children. Rape is common, and many teenage girls in Kawangware drop out of school due to unplanned pregnancies.

Our partner RHYCO opened the Bella Ciao Safe House to rescue children facing abusive situations at home or on the streets. There are so many sad stories here, and I sometimes describe Kawangware as hell on earth. **But when you walk through the gates of Bella Ciao, it's like entering an oasis.** Outside the gates, everything is dirty and dangerous. Inside, you find a clean, vibrant community where children have literally been saved, and the **joy is visible on every young face.** The RHYCO team is doing amazing work in the community, and I'm grateful to everyone who made it possible to purchase and renovate this property. It's become **a beacon in the community.**



# WASH PROJECTS

CLEAN WATER FOR THE BODY AND THE SOUL



This girl used to travel many km's to fill these jugs with water to bring home to her family.

International Needs Canada has a long history of providing support for communities, often in the form of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects.

WASH projects usually include the drilling of boreholes, which are **deep wells that provide a reliable and sustainable supply of clean water**. International Needs **Burkina Faso** is our newest global partner. Located in western Africa, it's one of the poorest countries in the world. They have minimal infrastructure, and 74% of the population lives in rural areas that experience **severe drought and a lack of safe water** for their daily needs. Every day, women and girls walk long distances to fetch dirty water, which leads to high rates of malnutrition and disease.

In partnership with Women Making a Difference, funds were raised for two boreholes in the village of Lah. The project was completed in 2022, and 5000 people now have access to clean water. After establishing a relationship with the community, **International Needs Burkina Faso was asked to bring water and hope to Kokoro**, another community struggling with water scarcity. This project includes two boreholes plus a block of badly needed public latrines.



The community in the Village of Lah surrounding the new well.



WASH projects deliver water for daily needs, plus other long-term benefits:

1. **Better health** – Reduced risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and typhoid fever.
2. **Better education and gender equality** – When there's a borehole close to home, children, especially girls, spend less time fetching water, and are more likely to attend school.
3. **More economic opportunities** – Communities that have access to water can engage in more agriculture and commerce.



# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

## BALANCING THE SCALES OF GENDER EQUALITY



The women's empowerment program at the Lydia Vocational School in Nepal

Gender inequality is a significant issue for many of our partner countries. In Nepal, progress towards equality has been slow. Women there face numerous challenges, including gender-based violence, limited access to education and healthcare, and discrimination in the workplace. There are also cultural and social norms that perpetuate gender inequality, such as the preference for male children and restrictions on women's mobility.

To address these challenges, International Needs Nepal opened the **Lydia Vocational Training Centre** in Kathmandu to expand the possibilities for young women who are trapped in rural areas, unaware that their lives could have more meaning and purpose.

Junu is a Lydia graduate who got married young and had two children. She completed the vocational training program and started a home-based tailoring business. **With seed money from IN Nepal, she rented a shop, upgraded her business, and purchased fabrics.**

Her business started to flourish, **generating enough income to pay her children's education fees and the family expenses too.** She's an active leader in her community, and in the recent general election of Nepal, she was elected as a ward member in her village municipality. **Junu thanks International Needs for opening the door of possibility,** building her self-confidence, and giving her the courage to speak and prepare for her life's journey.



# WHERE IS GOD LEADING YOU?

To say the least, it's been an interesting year. We mourn the injustice that seems to be everywhere we look, yet **we rejoice because we know our powerful God is present** through you and our partners around the world. He's made it possible for us to participate together in his redemptive plan, even though the journey is long.

I've said this a few times already, but we're so grateful you've been at our side, many of you for years. In my partner visits this year I saw such great things – **lives have literally been saved and transformed**, and I trust you'll stay with us to continue this ministry together.

As we look to the future, we do need to consider different ways of raising funds so we can help more of the children who are falling through the cracks. **We'll be coming to you for help to find more people who may be looking for ways to get involved.**

We'll also be hosting more trips, like Discovery Tours so you can see the programs for yourself, and Medical Outreaches so you can help out in a more practical way. Or perhaps you'd like to join me for an Umoja Journey, an Adventure with Purpose. Give us a call if you want to find out more – **these trips will change your life forever**, and give hope to the vulnerable people we are all committed to serving. Thank you!

In the meantime, God be with you all.

David Marshall



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Your gifts

Donations to Projects & Programs . . . . .	<b>\$1,964,102</b>
Donations to Overhead . . . . .	<b>\$657,180</b>
<b>Total donations . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,621,282</b>

## Where your gifts went

Ghana . . . . .	\$472,602
Uganda . . . . .	\$435,179
Kenya . . . . .	\$324,249
Bangladesh . . . . .	\$243,334
Zambia . . . . .	\$150,143
Other Countries* . . . . .	\$77,666
DR Congo . . . . .	\$66,022
Nepal . . . . .	\$57,164
Guatemala . . . . .	\$48,543
Colombia . . . . .	\$44,786
Burkina Faso . . . . .	\$44,414
<b>Total Programs and Projects . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,964,102</b>

\* Czech Republic, India, Philippines, Slovakia, Turkey

## 2022 Revenues

Total revenues were down slightly this year due to a combination of rising prices, economic uncertainty, and fewer large donations. About half of our revenues come from child sponsorships, so thank you for keeping your commitment to the children you support! The balance comes from individual donors, corporate partners, Youth Ambassador initiatives, Champion programs, and foundational grants. THANK YOU to all our supporters!





### Overhead Expenses

Just like for-profit businesses, charities have to pay salaries, rent, insurance, printing, promotion, and many other expenses. These administrative and fundraising costs are necessary (the children's programs wouldn't exist without funding). Of course, we always do our best to minimize how much we spend, and we were blessed again in 2022 to receive enough funds from some generous donors to pay all the overhead. This means 100% of the gifts above, including yours, were sent to the projects and programs.



"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

PSALM 118:29



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