

IMPACT

NETWORK



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Thriving in 2022!

This year was a year of partnerships for Impact Network, and an incredible turning point for Impact Network's journey to improve academic outcomes for all Zambian students. After the election of a new President, Hakainde Hichilema, Zambia's new dawn administration has made significant strides towards this mission by introducing free secondary education, recruiting of 30,000 new teachers, and enacting the Children's Code Act to advance children's rights and wellbeing.

We started 2022 with 5,500 students from ECE to grade 7 returning to school for a complete academic year. We held our annual teacher conference, had our whole team together in Zambia, and celebrated successes and milestones as a team. We also strengthened our work with the Ministry of Education in Zambia and embarked on a partnership that will see government teachers implementing our proven eSchool 360 education model. We scaled our Read Smart phonics program to eight schools, continued our work focused on girls education, increased our community outreach, and bolstered our environmental work.

I'm proud that Impact Network also received recognition for our work around literacy in particular, including being a 2022 Library of Congress Literacy Awards Honoree and making the HundrED inspiring innovation list. While the last few years have been filled with new challenges, with your support we have been able to continue to find new opportunities and focus on our mission: **to provide every child with a quality education.**

2022 was the year we reached out and partnered up. We are filled with gratitude to each of you who supported us on the journey.



Reshma Patel
Executive Director

MISSION & VISION



We believe every child deserves access to a quality education

Impact Network transforms lives in rural Zambian communities through education and innovation — at a fraction of the cost of other alternatives.

Our key program, the eSchool 360, is a holistic education model centered on empowering teachers with tablets, activity-based lessons, support and weekly coaching. This model is currently running in 40+ schools and impacting over 5,500 students. We also design and implement a variety of projects that improve the overall lives of our students, including early childhood education, financial literacy, child protection, girls and women empowerment, environmental sustainability, and life skills and sexuality.

Currently, we are part of a large-scale randomized controlled trial evaluation conducted by American Institutes for Research. At the end of grade 1, their research finds that our students were 12 months ahead on numeracy and 22 months ahead on literacy.



IMPACT

EDUCATION



The Problem: While primary school enrollment is high in Zambia, education quality is low, and literacy rates among young adults fall under regional averages. In 2017, less than 10% of 15-year-olds in Zambia reached a minimum level of proficiency in reading and only 2% of them reached a minimum level of proficiency in numeracy.

Our Solution: We envision a world where all students are given the tools they need to reach their full potential. Impact Network developed the eSchool 360 to address the widespread inequality in global education, which disproportionately affects children in rural Africa.

What Happened in 2022: We continued to improve our eSchool 360 model and adapt to an ever-changing landscape. This year we continued to provide support, training, and resources for our teachers. Additionally, we prioritized programs for our students that provided wrap-around services. Each of these programs was purposefully designed to impact one of the three key areas – education access, education quality, and student wellbeing. Some highlights from the year are:

- An expansion of our innovative *Read Smart Cinyanja* early literacy program, with sustained, externally validated research results.
- A new Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education in Zambia, creating space for government teachers to implement our proven eSchool 360 education model.
- The first of our Parent Engagement Days since the pandemic – with over 1,600 parents participating in eLearning lessons, hands-on activities, and student performances.

2022 INTERNAL RESULTS



We continued to collect and analyze internal data on enrollment, attendance, literacy & numeracy performance, and retention. Our framework also helps us track patterns across communities and schools over time to ensure that our interventions have meaningful impact.

86%

Pass rates for seventh graders on primary examinations

38%

Growth in Literacy Scores

20%

Growth in Numeracy Scores

59%

Female Enrollment

88%

Students Attendance Rate

5,483

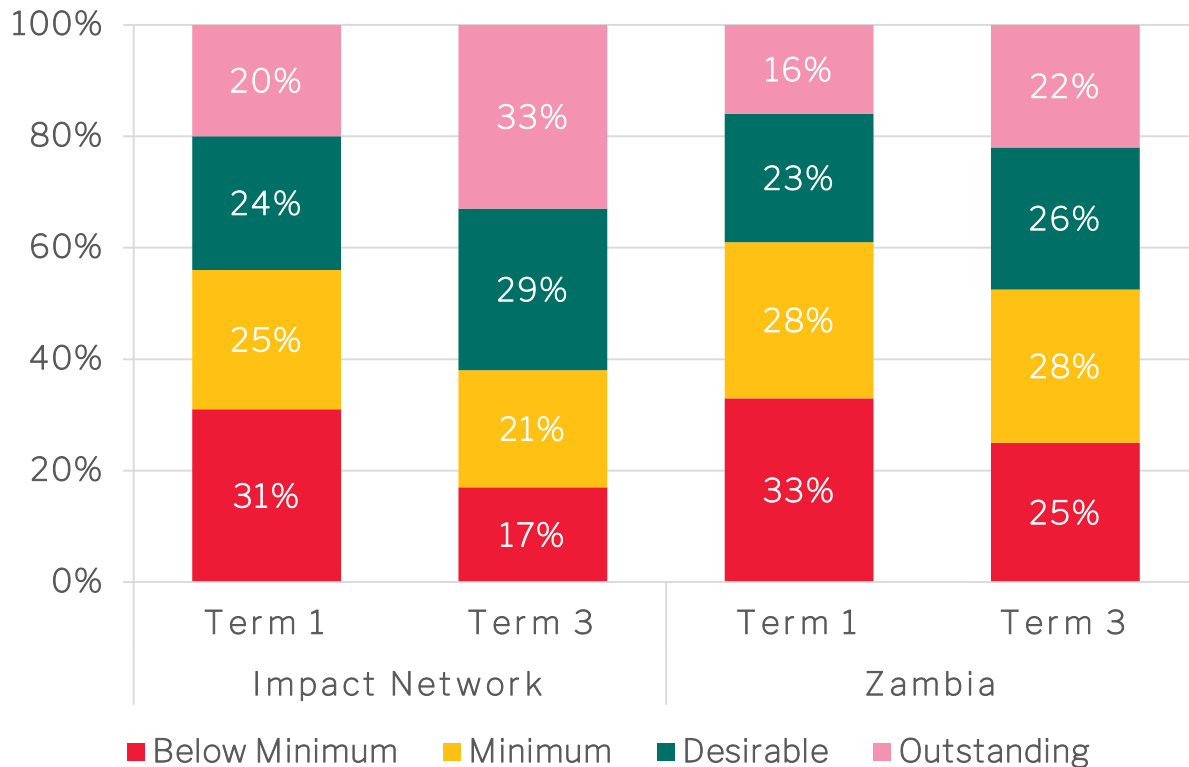
Enrolled

2022 EXTERNAL RESULTS



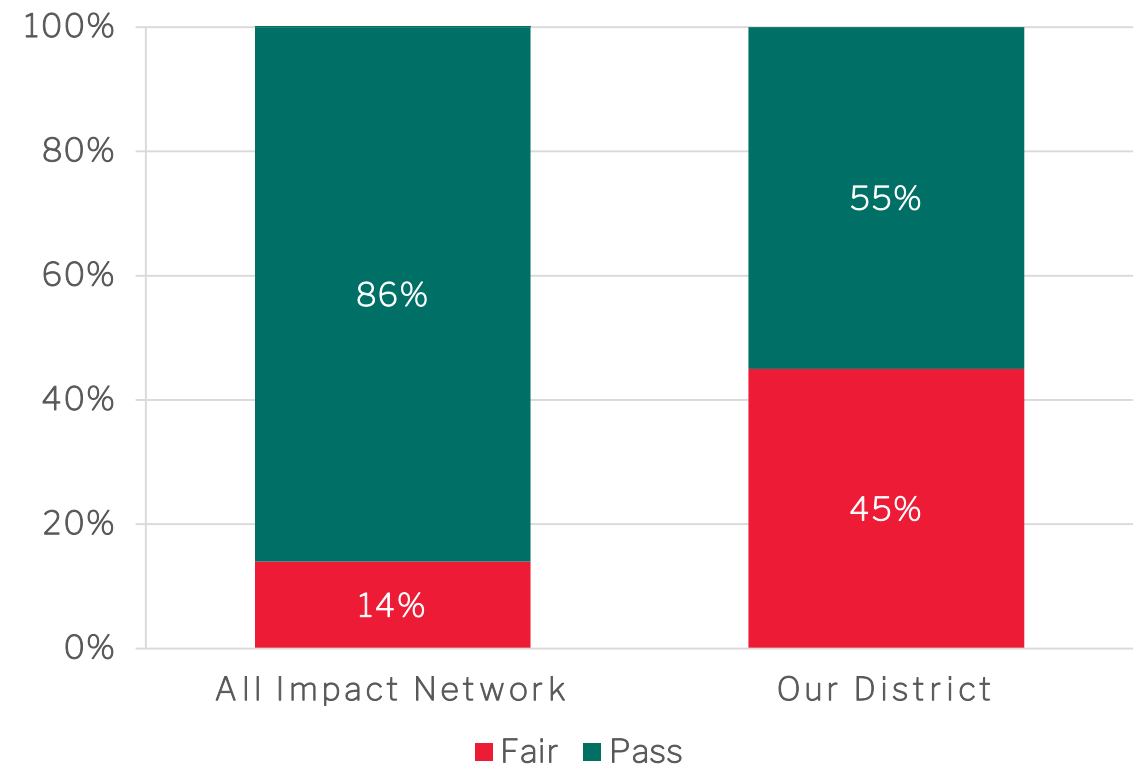
Data collected by USAID-funded *Let's Read Zambia* allows us to compare our literacy results with all students in five provinces across Zambia. Overall, Impact Network students made more progress towards improving literacy skills.

DATA FROM *LET'S READ ZAMBIA*:
2022 TERM 1 VS. TERM 3 DATA FOR GR. 1-2



All Grade 7 students participate in a end-of-year standardized assessment, which allows us to compare primary graduates with a national dataset. **86%** of Impact Network students passed these exams compared to **55%** for the rest of the district.

DATA FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ON
GRADE 7 ASSESSMENTS

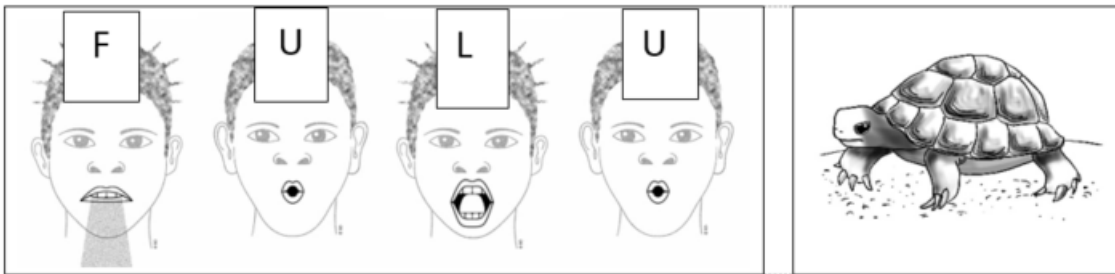


Read Smart Cinyanja

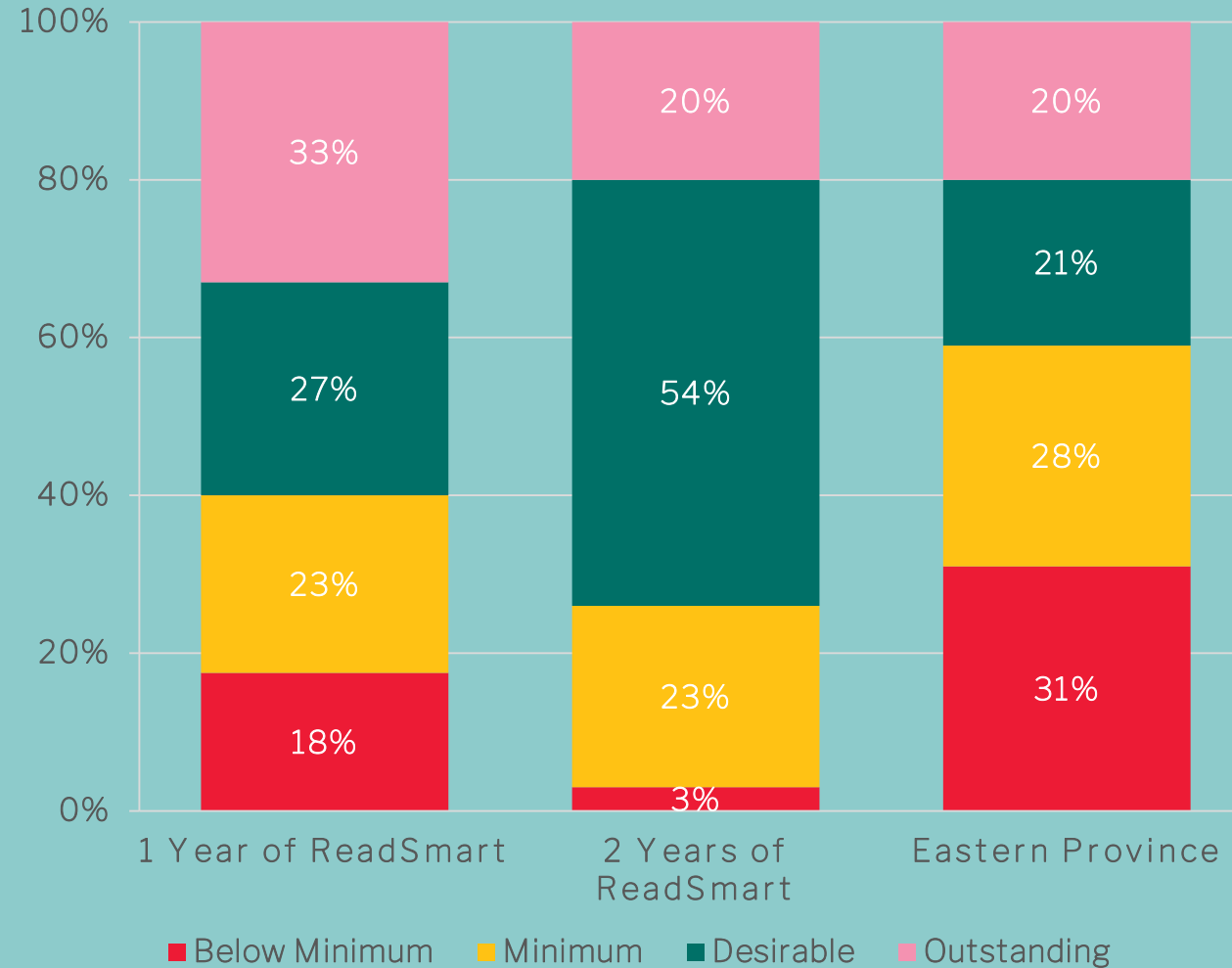
Education quality in rural Zambia has been dismal, especially in regards to literacy. A recent assessment by USAID-funded Let's Read Zambia shows that 70% of Grade 1-3 students performed at minimum or below minimum levels of proficiency in literacy.

In 2021, we piloted an innovative project to combat COVID-19 learning loss and improve early literacy outcomes called "Read Smart Cinyanja". This is a literacy intervention for early grade learning based on the use of phonetic charts, illustrating the mouth positions associated with each sound.

Based on early results from the pilot, this program was scaled up to eight schools in 2022, reaching over 900 students. External assessment data from the USAID-funded *Let's Read Zambia* project allows us to compare pilot schools with a national dataset. After two years in the program, **just 3% of students are below minimum literacy standards, compared to 31% for the rest of the country.**



Data from *Let's Read Zambia: 2023, Beginning of Year Literacy Assessments for Grade 3*





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GIRLS



The Problem: Many adolescent girls in rural Zambia lack critical menstrual health hygiene materials and knowledge. Additionally, young women are often not empowered to have control over their own bodies and are coerced into unwanted sex or early marriage.

Our Solution: Impact Girls aims to holistically address critical issues facing rural girls and young women – a lack of power to make decisions about their own education, health, bodies, and lives. Keeping school-age girls in school is one of the biggest factors that help to secure long-term changes in communities across Zambia.

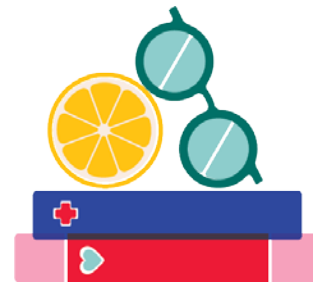
What Happened in 2022: Impact Girls programs continue to thrive and grow as we learn more about what works to keep girls in school. Across almost all grades and subject areas, our female students perform similarly to our male students. Additionally, in 2022:

- Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) clubs continued at Upper Primary Schools, covering difficult topics such as HIV/AIDS, puberty, peer pressure, negotiation and refusal skills, healthy relationships, gender-based violence and consent, and women's rights. The program reached almost 400 girls in 2022 alone.
- Menstrual Health Hygiene programs were held for upper primary girls. This program teaches young women to make their own reusable menstrual pads, and a small bag to store them in and resulted in over 1,000 pads being made!
- NetGirls Zambia, a rural netball league for young women, had its highest participation yet with 1,200 players across 80 teams.



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HEALTH



The Problem: Reproductive health information is essential for the futures of young people in rural communities, but only a third of primary school students in Eastern Province are provided with sex education. Young women are rarely given adequate life skills training to help them deal with gender-based violence, and more importantly, young men are not taught the importance of respect, consent, and advocacy for the women in their lives.

Our Solution: Impact Network is committed to a 'zero tolerance' of all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. All students in grades 6 and 7 complete weekly Life Skills and Sexuality workshops.

What Happened in 2022: In a post-COVID-19 world, Zambia still faced health challenges such as cholera and malaria. We continued to strengthen programs in the following key ways:

- Our Life Skills & Reproductive Health curriculum served 2,000 Upper Primary students, teaching skills to support students as they transition to adolescence.
- We hosted community workshops on child protection to almost 500 family members. These workshops are critical to our child protection efforts in the areas that we serve.
- We created systems to better support teenage pregnancies by developing more formal maternity leave policies and implementing programs to reduce the stigma around pregnancy for girls continuing in school.

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EARTH



The Problem: Despite policy and legal initiatives centered on environmental protection, little has been achieved on the ground to reduce the consequences of environmental degradation for the country and the toll that it continues to take on the people. Over 85% of rural households are affected by worsening crop land conditions, exacerbating the situation beyond an environmental issue, but also a food security one. In particular, the areas that we work are drought-prone and the conservation and efficient use of water becomes critical.

Our Solution: Our Impact Earth initiatives include solar power, rainwater harvesting, tree-planting, and educational upcycling to rethink the use of trash in our school environment. Each of our students participates in environmental activities culminating in a Go Green Day held at each school.

What Happened in 2022: We continued to leverage off our start to Impact Earth, scaling up these impactful programs:

- We have planted over 15,000 trees to-date, combatting deforestation in the areas where we work.
- We implemented upcycling and student-centered environmental initiatives, including a Go Green Day, culminating in projects that students make out of “trash”.
- We are partnering with Earth Warriors to provide a comprehensive climate change curriculum to all students in Grades 1 through 4.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



“In particular, this award recognizes Impact Network’s successful practice in implementing a unique program that respects local culture and values the voices of children and their expressive selves.”

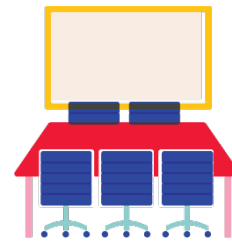


“The low cost of implementation, \$5 per student/month, and use of solar energy makes this innovation scalable and suitable for many other low-income countries or rural regions.”

- HundrED Academy Member



LEADERSHIP TEAM



One of our greatest assets is the strength of our small but diverse and accomplished team. In Zambia, our team brings local knowledge and working relationships with government and donors at local, provincial, and national levels. Our team in the US is comprised of leaders with exceptional business acumen, project management and financial skills, research training, and international experience in fundraising and marketing.

Zambia Board of Directors

Hope Zimba ● Chikosola Chuula ● Anna Murru ● Jay Patel ● George Barlow

US Board of Directors

Dan Sutera ● David Seidenfeld ● Anup Patel ● James Lum ● Jennifer Rackliff ● Sekai Ndemanga
Swan Sit ● Stephan Spencer ● Diane Fusilli ● Ashley Gasque

Co-Founders

Dan Sutera ● David Seidenfeld ● Michael Weiss

Executive Director

Reshma Patel

Senior Management Team

Promise Makala ● Lweendo Maanya ● Steven Chirwa ● Noah Kalaba
Katie Kerr ● Annabelle Hardy ● Karly Southworth

2022 FINANCIALS (ESTIMATED)

Total Support and Revenue	\$989,200
Total Expenses	\$1,046,260
Total Assets	\$475,982
Total Liabilities	\$128,642
Net Assets	\$347,340

The above represents unaudited financials based on estimates for 2022 year end. Audited financials will be available in Q3 of 2023, along with Form 990 filings.





“ We believe that every child deserves access to a quality education.

It is that simple.

Thank you for making this possible in 2022.

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