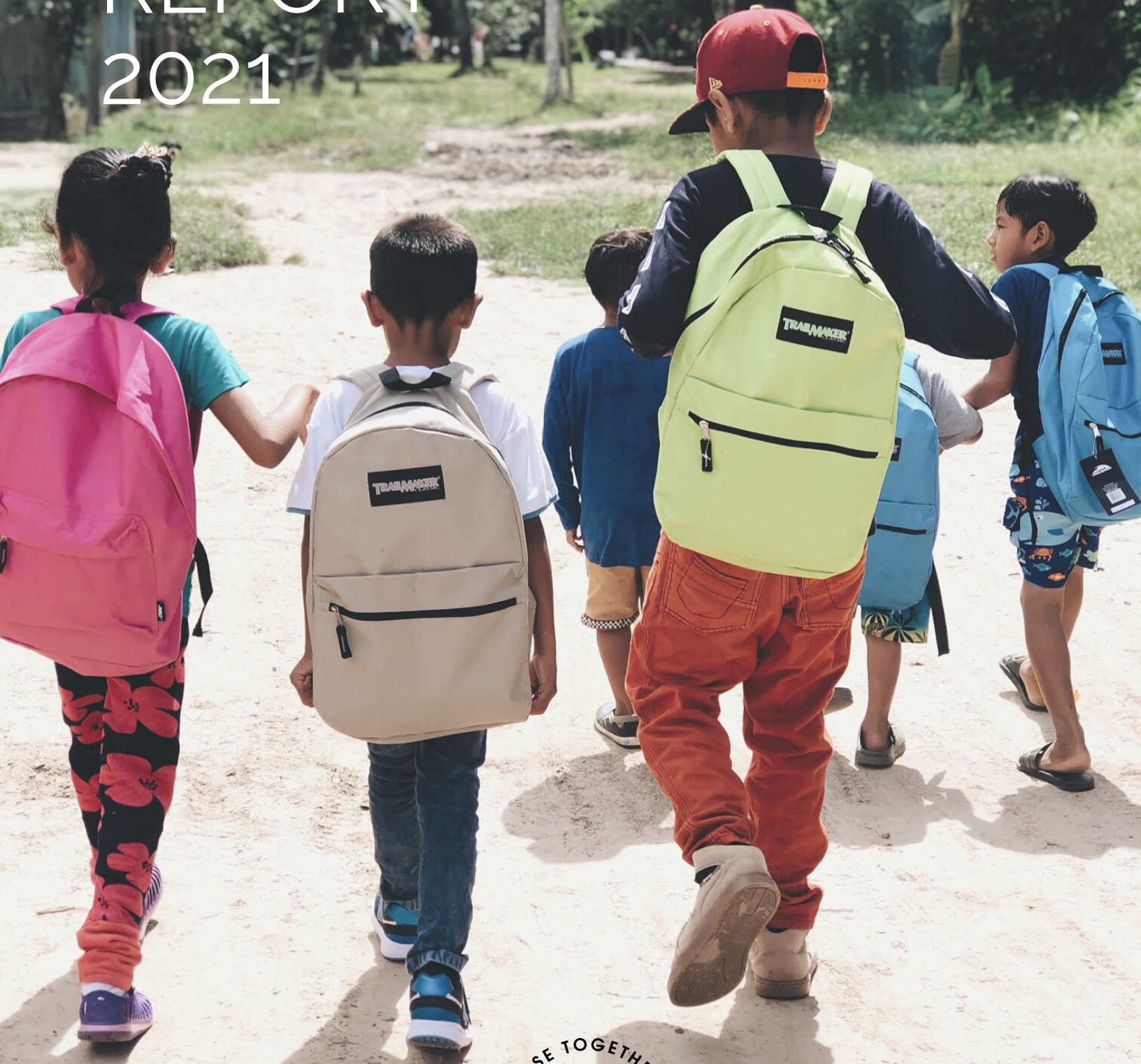


IMPACT REPORT 2021



RISE TOGETHER
INTERNATIONAL



OUR WHY

Iquitos, Peru stole our hearts the first time we visited. In a city struck by such extreme poverty, there is very little hope for the future among the people. Sadly, many children are growing up without access to a quality education, and many parents are unable to invest in a sustainable career or provide for their families. After countless trips to the city and time spent with the locals, these families became friends, and their reality became much more real to us. We knew we wanted to help in whatever way we could.

It was placed on our hearts to create an organization designed to work with families individually and empower them to create change in their own lives. We believe that if we all work together to advance opportunity and wellbeing, these families can rise into a brighter future. This is how Rise Together was born.

OUR STRATEGY

We believe that the most sustainable change is made when families are equipped with the necessary tools and skills to make positive changes to their own circumstances. This is accomplished by helping families build a foundation for a healthier life and creating job opportunities that will make a lasting impact. Our work is focused on three main programs: Medical, Education, and Career Development.

This report will give you a glimpse at the impact made through each of these programs over the past year.

MEDICAL CAMPS

Due to the extreme poverty throughout the city, many families have difficulty meeting their most basic medical needs. In most cases, medical care is viewed as a luxury, not a necessity. In order to combat this reality, we host medical camps that offer families free medical care.

DENTAL CAMP

We hosted a 2-day dental camp that ran from 9am to 4pm each day. Over 130 patients were able to receive extractions, fillings, cleanings, and fluoride treatments. Each patient also attended an oral hygiene class and left with a brand new toothbrush, toothpaste, and pack of floss.

People came to the camp and shared stories of infections, cavities, rotten teeth, etc. Some patients told us that they had walked for hours to make it to the camp. Kids were brought in feverish and sick from tooth infections that had gone uncared for, and the list goes on. Needless to say, the generosity of our donors helped a lot of people. Everyone was grateful to be able to receive the care that they needed, without having to worry about how they would pay for it.



MEDICAL CARE

Throughout the past year, we worked with a handful of families individually to help meet a variety of medical needs. Following are a few of the people we were able to help, all thanks to the generosity of our incredible donors.

MEET ANGIE

We found this 8-year-old girl with her arm in a bamboo cast. She had broken her arm 12 days before, but her mother could not afford to take her to a doctor. As soon as we found out, we went straight to the hospital. Angie received an x-ray and a consultation with a trauma specialist. He said an operation was necessary, due to the severity of the break. It was not until four days later that an operating room opened up for her to be able to receive the surgery she needed.

The operation went smoothly, and she went home the following day with her new, cool cast. A barbie doll and some flowers helped make the transition a little easier. After eight weeks, she was able to get the cast and the pins in her elbow removed. Angie is now fully recovered and able to use her arm again.



MEET DEYSI

We ran into this sweet 6-year-old girl, outside of her house, with a large abscess on the side of her face that was leaking fluid. The very next morning, we took Deysi to a hospital and had an x-ray done. It was determined that she had an infection in her jaw bone, due to a decayed tooth, among many other issues, and the need for surgery was urgent.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of technology and training, the hospitals in Iquitos were unable to perform the surgery. It was determined that Deysi would need to be flown to Lima (the country's capital) in order to receive the operation.

Deysi and her father flew over to Lima and were checked into the hospital there. The very next day, Deysi received her surgery and began her recovery process. After a long month in Lima, the doctors said that Deysi was healing quickly and properly, and they cleared her to fly back to Iquitos. She is now safely and happily back home with her family.



MEET SANTIAGO

Santiago is a sweet 1st grader in our education program. He lights up every room that he walks into. Santiago was born with a speech disorder. It's really difficult for him to create understandable sounds or form words, making it hard for him to express himself and communicate effectively.

In impoverished communities, disorders like Santiago's typically get overlooked. In these areas, families almost always lack the resources to receive even the most basic help and necessary supplies. This can make living with a disability extra challenging.

After getting to know Santiago through our program, we spoke with his mother about his speech disorder. She shared that she really wanted to get him the help that he needed, but it was not an option, as this was an expense she could not afford. Thanks to some amazing donors, the next day, Santiago took a diagnostic exam at a local clinic that specializes in treatment for speech disorders. The results of his exam revealed that in addition to a speech disorder, Santiago has a learning disability.

Santiago is now enrolled at the clinic. He meets with a speech therapist and psychologist twice a week, for two hours each day.

He has been thriving in his classes. We can't wait to see what the future has in store for Santiago, and we are so grateful for donors who make opportunities like this possible for kids like Santiago.



MEET EMIR

Emir is a 5-year-old boy who lives in the community we serve. One day, Emir's grandma stopped us as we were walking through the village and asked if we could help her grandson. She went on to explain that he has some issues with his skin. He has bumps and sores all over his body, from head-to-toe, that cause him a lot of pain. The bumps itch, swell, and hurt so bad that sometimes he can't sleep at night, and sometimes he even has trouble walking. She shared that the issue had been going on for the last 3 years. The only treatment that she could afford was a topical cream that she tried a year ago, but it didn't help, and she doesn't have the resources to try anything else.

After visiting a couple different hospitals, seeing a few different doctors, and trying out a handful of various medicines, it was determined that Emir has a blood disease that is causing his skin condition. As soon as this was discovered, Emir started a longterm treatment plan. He is taking a daily liquid medication and using a topical cream, in addition to seeing his doctor once a month to receive a shot.

He has been on this plan for about 4 months now, and we're happy to share that his skin is clearing up. It's not all gone, but it's way better than it was, and it's causing him a lot less pain.



EDUCATION

Education not only provides individuals with knowledge and skills to help them navigate their immediate circumstances, but it also helps them to prepare for a more self-sufficient future. Education is the basis of development of any society. Unfortunately, in extremely impoverished communities, it is nearly impossible for students to receive a quality education. Schools are underfunded, classrooms are overcrowded, and teachers have little support or awareness of their students' educational levels.

OUR APPROACH

Through our education program, Together We Learn, students have access to academic assistance, school supplies, and nutrient-packed meals. Through intentional lessons, a supportive environment, individualized attention, and a healthy meal at the end of each session, this program is designed to improve academic performance and overall attitude towards learning, as well as ensure that each child is given the opportunity to receive a quality education.



JUNTOS APRENDEMOS

Together We Learn

Our education program launched on March 16, 2021 with a Back to School "Shopping" Day. On this day, the students and their parents were able to pick out all of the school supplies needed for the program. Then, each student enrolled in the program took a placement test, which revealed that 73% of the kids in our program were illiterate. This resulted in a shift from focusing on tutoring to focusing on teaching these students the basics. Classes began March 30th and ran until December 14th.

We strongly believe that investing in local leadership for our programs is the most effective way to make lasting change. We are proud to share that our education program is run by local staff and teachers. With years of experience teaching, they are experts in their field and the best equipped to educate the upcoming generation.

108

students enrolled

187.5

hours of tutoring
per student

6,750

meals served



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

One of the key factors in creating lasting change in an impoverished community is to empower families to build sustainable careers. The vast majority of individuals living in extreme poverty are not given the opportunity to invest in a sustainable career. This is a result of the lack of quality education, as well as a scarcity of employment resources.

OUR APPROACH

Through our empowerment program, Strong Families, families are educated and equipped to launch their own small business. Through the 4 phases of this program, we train and invest in each family, while curating employment opportunities that are uniquely aligned to them. After a family has successfully completed the program, regular check-ins and ongoing mentorship are provided. As families grow their businesses, more job opportunities are created, and entire communities are able to thrive. This opportunity inspires hope, restores dignity, and transforms lives, all while breaking the cycle of extreme poverty.



FAMILIAS FUERTES

Strong Families



1 Family Assessment

3 Business & Financial Management Training

2 Family Development

4 Implementation & Mentorship

Our career development program launched on August 30th with our first 3 families enrolled. These families have since completed Phase 1 and 2 of the program and are currently finishing up Phase 3. In just a few weeks, each of these families will enter into Phase 4 - the launch of their small business. This will be followed by ongoing mentorship to ensure longterm success.

We are so proud of each of these families and their commitment to this program and bettering their lives.



MEET THE PAREDES

We had the privilege of working with The Paredes, a sweet family who own their own Jugueria (similar to a cafe). Joaquin and his wife have operated their Jugueria for over 33 years. When Covid-19 hit Iquitos, they had to close their business for a number of months. When they were finally able to open again, they needed a number of new appliances to keep operating the Jugueria, but they had spent all of their savings trying to survive during the quarantine.

We were able to invest in the re-launch of Joaquin's business. He received all of the appliances the Jugueria needed, and in order to generate some more business, the store got a fresh paint job and a new, colorful menu that would help grab the attention of those passing by.

We've been back to the Jugueria many times since then, and Joaquin and his wife always have smiles on their faces while serving tables full of customers.





FUNDRAISING

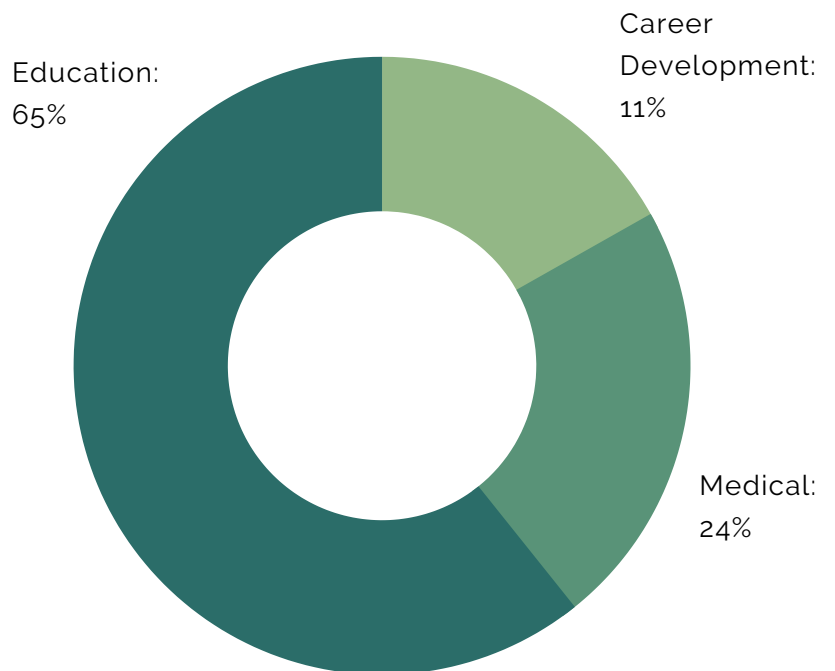
Everything we do is made possible by you - our loyal and dedicated family of supporters.

With your help, in 2021, we were able to raise

\$105,917

to empower families living in extreme poverty.

INVESTMENT BREAKDOWN



MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

The Crew



The Crew is a community of monthly donors who are committed and determined to make an impact in the city of Iquitos. 100% of each monthly donation goes directly towards funding our education program. Just \$15/month provides a student with a spot in the program, giving them access to academic assistance, nutrient dense meals, and school supplies.

Poverty alleviation is a marathon, not a sprint. Truly sustainable change cannot happen overnight. The monthly support of our Crew members allows us to take a planned, long-term approach towards empowering families to build brighter futures.

For more information on The Crew, visit risetogetherint.org/thecrew



OPERATIONS

From the very beginning, we wanted to be as transparent with our supporters as possible. This goal is what inspired the 100% model. Through this model, we have a group of donors dedicated to covering the entirety of our overhead expenses, and as a result, 100% of all other donations are utilized to fund international projects that help break the cycle of poverty within the communities we serve.

Our outreach and our operations accounts are maintained separately. This is our intentional way of separating our funding while creating a system that we believe will be sustainable for years to come.

This is all made possible by an amazing group of donors called The Foundation.

The FOUNDATION

Through their generosity, we are provided with the resources and opportunity to focus our effort towards growing our international programs and furthering our impact throughout Iquitos, Peru.

If you are interested in learning more about The Foundation, please email zach@risetogetherint.org.



WHAT A YEAR!

Thank **YOU** for making it possible.

Because of you, families living in extreme poverty are taking strides towards a brighter future and entire communities are thriving.

Thank you for advocating for our friends in Iquitos, Peru. Thank you for encouraging, praying, and giving. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those in need.

We are endlessly grateful for you.

STAY CONNECTED IN 2022!



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Rise Together International



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