

RISE TOGETHER IMPACT REPORT 2022



As we think back over this past year, we can't help but smile. 2022 was a year filled with challenges, no doubt, but it was also a year of growth, friendship, community, and much more.

This last year completed the second full year of our Education Enhancement Program. We witnessed children learn to read and write, score better on exams, enjoy themselves in the classroom for the first time, and develop more self-confidence.

We sent five families through our Career Development Program. Each of these families started their own small business(es) and have shown tremendous growth both personally and professionally.

We also came alongside a sweet boy in our education program and sent him and his grandmother to the country's capital to receive dire treatment for a severe skin condition. We're relieved to share that he made it back to Iquitos with a long-awaited diagnosis and the knowledge and direction needed to manage his condition.

And that is just a glimpse! 2022 was a year to remember, to say the least, and none of it would have been possible without you. As we continue to grow and deepen our impact, we can't thank you enough for coming alongside us to stand with children and families living in extreme poverty.

Thank you for entrusting us with your support, giving so generously, and allowing these families the opportunity to build a brighter future.

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS

-Zach & Bronte Howard

Co-Founders, Rise Together International



WHERE WE WORK

IQUITOS, PERU

Iquitos is the largest city in the world that is only accessible by river and air, with a population of over 490,000. Located in the Northern Peruvian Jungle, this city is known as the “Gateway to the Amazon.”


Iquitos is also home to its share of extreme poverty. Many areas throughout the city lack access to clean water, proper sanitation, electricity, and other basic necessities. These circumstances, mixed with social problems of extreme poverty such as unemployment, prostitution, crime, and domestic abuse, have resulted in frustration and hopelessness among the people.

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.

We work closely with local leaders and institutions to ensure we are implementing the most effective programs and best serving the community. This allows us to steward funds in a way that is efficient and effective, ultimately furthering our mission and impact.

Enjoy this report as it walks you through 2022 and gives a glimpse at the impact made through our programs over the past year.

OUR STRATEGY

A photograph of three children, two girls and one boy, smiling and waving from behind a wooden wall. They are in a structure with a corrugated metal roof and wooden beams. The girl on the left is wearing a pink shirt. The girl in the middle is wearing a light-colored shirt. The boy on the right is wearing a dark shirt. The background is dark, suggesting an interior or shaded area.

*Love and kindness are never wasted.
They always make a difference. They
bless the one who receives them, and
they bless you, the giver.*

— Barbara De Angelis

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We work alongside families through our Career Development Program by equipping them with the knowledge and resources needed to launch and run a small business. We believe that the most sustainable way to meet a family's needs is to empower the parents to be the providers.



ISUIZA OCUMBE FAMILY



The Isuiza Ocumbe family is the proud owner of The Little Fat Chicken Farm! Their excitement and determination inspired us from day one. This family worked hard to learn all the tips and tricks needed to raise healthy chickens. They're currently selling to neighbors and in the local market, but they have big goals to sell to restaurants as well.



PIPA CAHUACHI FAMILY

The Pipa Cahuachi Family opened the first distribution center in their village: Deposito Los Dos Hermanitos (The Two Little Siblings' Distributor). Sonia and Willi's two kids were the inspiration behind this name. Being the only distributor in Cabo Lopez, they have the incredible opportunity to be the preferred supplier to the many small, in-home convenience stores that are scattered throughout the village. They have big dreams and goals for their business, and we can't wait to watch them come to life!



SILVANO IÑAPI FAMILY



Maria's husband of 13 years passed away a couple years ago. He was the owner of a small store that offered maintenance services for batteries. Upon his passing, Maria became the legal owner of this store; however, she had no knowledge of how to run a business. Through our program, Maria learned how to operate the business, manage employees, and promote her products. Together, we made store improvements, developed a marketing plan and business budget, and increased her inventory supply. For the first time, she's feeling excited and confident about the future of her store!

RAMIREZ CHUJANDAMA FAMILY

Miguel has always had a passion for farming and a dream to own a fish farm. He is now the proud owner of Agropecuaria Matheo (Matheo Farm), named after his grandson. His pond is stocked with 1,000 Gamitana fish, which take around 10-13 months to be fully ready for harvest. Once ready, he will be offering his fish to the people of his village, vendors in the city market, and local restaurants.



When Miguel's wife, Celia, joined our program, she had a clear vision for her business: a small restaurant that would serve fresh food every day and be a fun, welcoming environment for all the locals. The name would be "El Gustito" (The Little Taste). We all worked together to bring this vision to life! Celia prepares a variety of typical Peruvian dishes, such as chicken, rice, beans, juanes, fish, empanadas, and fried plantains, as well as a selection of juices and coffee. The locals are loving her menu and atmosphere!



EDUCATION

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 governmental support, resulting in their students' needs remaining unmet.

COVID-19 EFFECT ON EDUCATION

Iquitos is the capital city of the Maynas region, which holds the lowest education proficiency in the entire country of Peru. Only 46.7% of the population has completed primary education, with only 28.8% completing secondary education.

With this region having one of the smallest budgets in the country, they were unable to provide a majority of their schools with virtual learning resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. At these schools, classes were broadcast daily through the radio. Although some students could access lessons this way, there were still many difficulties presented by this method of learning. There were no assignments, exams, scores, or even instructors to whom the students could ask questions. With the majority of parents not completing their own education, they were unable to help their children with their studies during this time. This caused education to be put on pause for two years.

During this time, the Department of Education determined that no student would repeat a grade. Today, this has resulted in students returning to in-person classes based on their age, not their education level, causing them to fall even further behind.

OUR APPROACH

Our Education Enhancement Program is designed to combat the main issues faced by impoverished communities: poor education, malnutrition, and lack of resources as well as address the major educational issues caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Students enrolled meet regularly with tutors, have access to school supplies and learning resources, and receive nutrient-dense 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 toward learning. In addition, it ensures that each child is given the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Goal: To best equip underserved students to achieve their full potential in the classroom, while bringing awareness to the surrounding community on the importance of education.

2022 SNAPSHOT

With students returning to in-person classes this year, it was important to focus our effort toward assisting our students to make this transition as smooth as possible. We hosted regular parent-tutor meetings to give our tutors the opportunity to share their students' academic progress and growth as well as help the parents better understand how they can support and encourage their children. We increased the number of assessments taken throughout the year to ensure our staff maintained an accurate understanding of their students' progress and made any necessary adjustments to their curriculum. In addition to classes, we offered our low-performing students one-on-one tutoring sessions designed to better meet their needs and allow them to learn at their own pace.



80

STUDENTS ENROLLED



164

HOURS OF TUTORING



5,680

MEALS SERVED



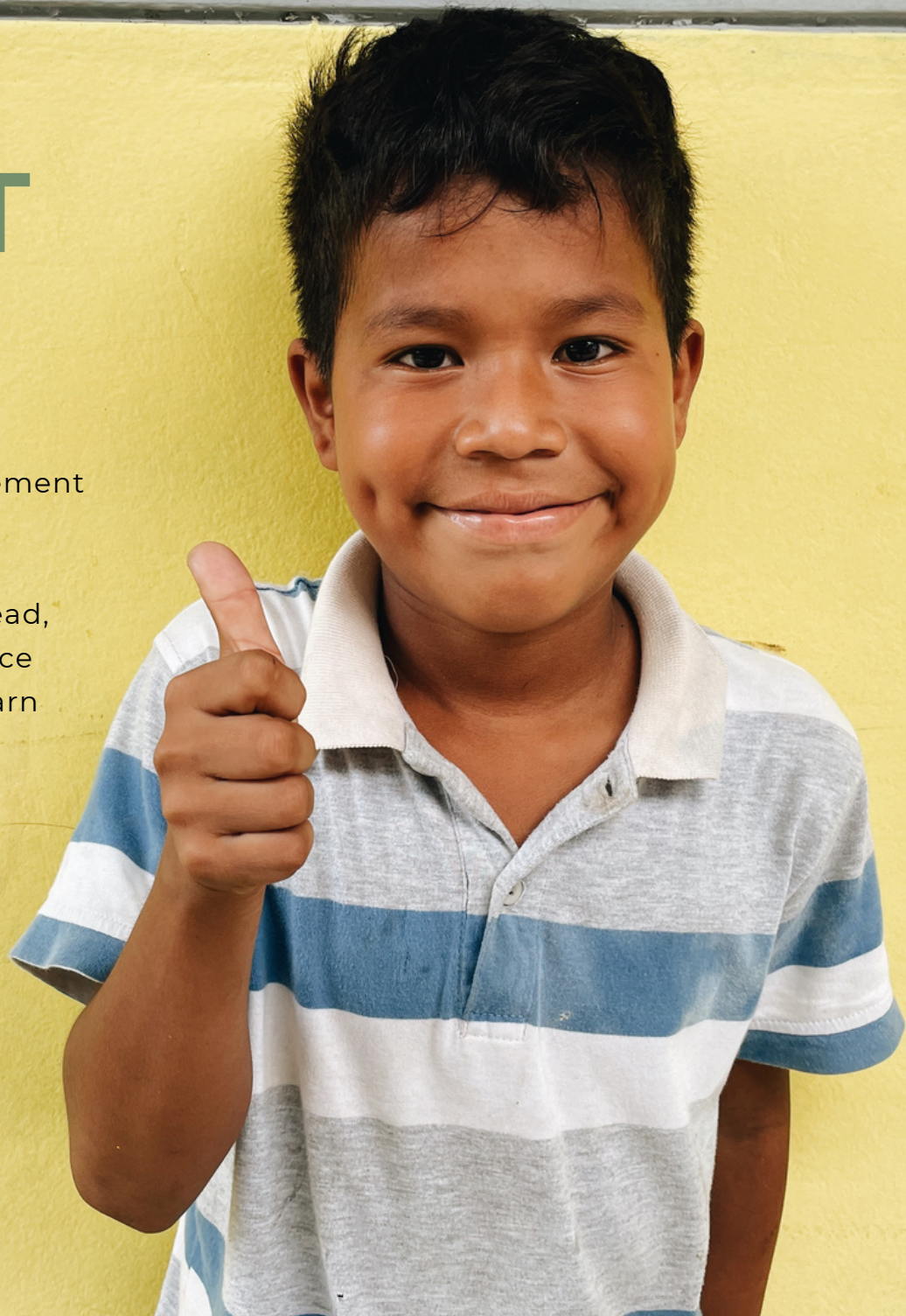
EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

MEET OUR MOST-IMPROVED 3RD GRADER!

This boy has shown the most improvement over the 2022 program year.

On his first day of class, he couldn't read, write, or even recite the alphabet. Since then, he has been working hard to learn his letters and how they go together to form words. We are happy to share that he has made great progress toward this goal.

We are so proud of this guy! His hard work is paying off, and we can't wait to see what the years to come have in store for him.





WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2023, we will be working alongside the Local Educational Management Unit of Maynas (UGEL) to implement our education program in more high-risk schools and further our impact throughout the region. Working alongside local leaders and institutions is a vital part of our organization's mission and a critical component of our program's success. Through this partnership, we are able to combine our resources to better serve this generation of students. Together, we are on a mission to best equip students for success, one school at a time.

NEW YEAR, NEW FRIENDSHIPS

COLEGIO LA UNIÓN

We are thrilled to be adding a second school location.

In just a couple months, we are launching our program in Colegio La Unión, located in an impoverished community on the outskirts of Iquitos. As we visited this school, spoke with the teachers, and introduced ourselves to the students, we were met with wide eyes and big smiles. The resounding response as we shared about our program was pure joy. The teachers harped on the dire need for help within the community and the students expressed their excitement to attend the program, receive extra academic attention, and maybe even learn a little English.

We are as eager as they are about this partnership. We dream of the day when every child has access to a quality education, and we know that this is a big step in that direction and just the beginning of all that is to come.



MEDICAL HIGHLIGHT

AN UPDATE ON SANTIAGO

We have been working with Santiago for nearly two years. Santiago was born with a speech disorder, making it difficult for him to create understandable sounds, form words, and communicate effectively.

In 2021, we enrolled Santiago in a local clinic where he began attending weekly speech therapy sessions and meeting with a psychologist. Over the past two years, Santiago has made tremendous progress. His self-confidence has grown, his educational level has increased, and his overall wellbeing has improved.

Throughout 2023, Santiago will remain enrolled in the clinic, as there is still progress to be made. His teachers are eager to focus on specific areas of need and help him meet some milestones they have been working toward.

Santiago's mom, Maria Silvano Inapi, successfully completed our Career Development Program. We shared her story earlier in this report. After completing the program, her income from her business has grown, allowing her to take on some of the financial responsibility of Santiago's classes. We are excited to continue moving in this direction with Maria until she can take on the full financial responsibility of his enrollment in the clinic.





MEDICAL HIGHLIGHT

AN UPDATE ON EMIR

Around the age of 2, Emir started developing bumps and sores all over his body that kept him from being able to put shoes on, walk, and sleep at night. Overtime, the sores worsened and began causing him abdominal pain, nausea, and fevers.

When we met him, June of 2021, he was 5 years old, so the issue had been going on for 3 years at that time. We started taking Emir to appointments at local hospitals and clinics. Eventually, it was determined that the testing he would need to accurately diagnose his condition was not available in Iquitos. As a result, he would need to see a specialist in the country's capital, Lima. Upon receiving this news, our supporters rallied together to raise the funds needed to send Emir and his grandmother there.

Nearly 6 weeks later, after numerous tests and exams, the doctors diagnosed Emir with Hyperimmunoglobulin E Syndrome: a rare, genetic disease that causes problems with the skin, sinuses, lungs, bones, and teeth.

The doctor gave him a specific regimen to follow, in order to keep his symptoms under control. We are happy to share that Emir's skin is dramatically better. Although this is something Emir will be dealing with all his life, at least they now understand what is causing his skin condition and the steps they need to take moving forward. Emir and his grandmother are so relieved to finally have some answers.



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

We are deeply grateful for how God has blessed our organization and the people who have joined us on this journey. Everything we do is made possible by our dedicated donors, supporters, and friends. We are inspired by the generosity and kindness of the community that has come alongside us and humbled by the way you advocate for those in need.

We give a huge thank you to those who have made our mission possible, and we are eager and excited for all that is to come.

STAY CONNECTED



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