

EIRWA.ORG

YEAR 2022



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents**



"Embrace. Empower. Thrive:  
Empowering Rural Women and  
Adolescents for Inclusive Growth"

# A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER



Greetings,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the annual report for the Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents. As the founder of this organization, I am humbled by the progress we have made and the impact we have created in the lives of women and adolescents in rural communities that we serve.

When I embarked on this journey, my vision was clear - to create a platform that would uplift, empower, and advocate for the rights and well-being of women and girls in underserved areas. Today, as I reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I am filled with a deep sense of satisfaction and renewed determination to continue our mission.

Throughout 2022, we remained committed to our core values. We strived to provide comprehensive programs and initiatives that addressed the diverse needs of our beneficiaries. From capacity building and training programs to economic empowerment initiatives, health and well-being programs, and advocacy campaigns, we aimed to create lasting change at both the individual and community levels.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and the trust and resilience displayed by the communities we serve. I extend my deepest gratitude to every individual who has been a part of this incredible journey.

As we turn the pages of this annual report, I invite you to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize the challenges we have overcome, and acknowledge the path that lies ahead. The work we do is far from complete and our commitment to advancing the rights and empowerment of rural women and adolescents remains steadfast.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ireen Chikatula'.

Ireen Chikatula

EIRWA

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# INTRODUCTION

Dear Stakeholders and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that we present the Annual Report for the Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents (EIRWA) for the year 2022. This report highlights our organization's activities, achievements, and the transformative impact we have made in the lives of women and adolescents in rural communities that we serve in Zambia.

Over the past year, Our organisation has embarked on various initiatives and programs that have empowered and uplifted women and adolescents, especially girls, enabling them to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for growth and development.

In particular, we are proud to highlight the significant progress made in our School Girls Empowerment Program, the Sanitary Cloth Pad-Making Projects, Beekeeping initiatives, supporting women in agriculture, and our rebranding efforts to include adolescent boys in our initiative.

To help you know us better, Here is a brief overview of who we are:



**About Us:** Driven by our commitment to social justice, gender equality and inclusive growth, we are a dedicated, feminist and youth-led, non-profit organisation that is focused on uplifting and empowering women and adolescents in rural communities. Through comprehensive programs in areas like economic empowerment, education, health, gender equality, leadership, and community development.

**We exist** "to create an inclusive environment for rural women and adolescents to thrive and achieve their greatest aspirations".

**We envisage** "a future where women and adolescents in rural communities are empowered to thrive and reach their full potential and are at the forefront of positive change". Our dedication lies in providing comprehensive social and economic support that fosters their growth, resilience and self-determination.

**Thematic Areas:**

- Girls' Empowerment
- Education and Skill Building
- Adolescent Health and Well-being
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Leadership and Advocacy
- Community Development
- Climate change
- Agriculture



We would like to express our gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support throughout this transformative journey. Together, we have made a significant difference in the lives of countless women and adolescents, fostering empowerment, equality, and sustainable development in rural communities.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2022, we also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. We remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of women and adolescents, and we look forward to continuing our journey of empowerment and positive change.





# ACTIVITIES

## 1. Capacity Building and Training Programs:

Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents (EIRWA) places a strong emphasis on capacity building for its staff. Through participation in local, regional, and national workshops, staff members are provided with opportunities to exchange ideas, share challenges, and strengthen collaborations. Engaging in these workshops ensures continuous learning, professional development, and the ability to enhance program effectiveness and strengthen collaborations with stakeholders. EIRWA's investment in staff capacity building is aimed at driving meaningful change and empowering women and adolescents in rural areas.



photo credit: One Young World

Throughout the year 2022, the organization conducted a range of capacity building and training programs tailored to meet the specific needs of its target beneficiaries.

These programs encompassed various topics, including leadership development, communication skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training.

Women and adolescent participants were provided with opportunities to develop their self-confidence, decision-making abilities, and critical thinking skills.





## 2. Economic Empowerment Initiatives:



Economic empowerment plays a crucial role in enabling women and adolescents to break free from the cycle of poverty and achieve financial independence. The Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents implemented several initiatives throughout 2022 to promote economic empowerment among its beneficiaries.

These initiatives included entrepreneurship training, business development support and access and income-generation projects. Women and adolescent participants were equipped with the skills necessary to start their own businesses, manage finances effectively, and how to access financial services.





### 3. Health and Well-being Programs: SRHR and Menstrual Hygiene Management Activities:

Recognizing the critical importance of health and well-being in the lives of women and adolescents, the Empowerment Initiative prioritized comprehensive health programs during 2022. The organization focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education, aiming to equip women and adolescents with essential knowledge about their reproductive health, family planning, and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

In addition to SRHR activities, the organization also emphasized Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). Recognizing the significant challenges faced by girls and women in rural areas in managing menstruation, the initiative conducted awareness campaigns, distributed sanitary pads, and provided education on proper menstrual hygiene practices. By addressing the taboo and stigma surrounding menstruation, the organization empowered girls to attend school regularly and pursue their education without hindrance.



## 4. School Girls Empowerment Program: 'Girls Can.' Empowerment Clubs:

The "Girls Can." aims to empower rural girls and young women in Zambia through enhanced access to sexual and reproductive health information, improved literacy skills, and digital literacy. The project seeks to improve health outcomes, expand educational opportunities, and foster overall empowerment for girls, enabling them to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

It is dedicated to ensuring equal educational opportunities and empowering girls to dream big and achieve their goals. Through its holistic approach, the program aims to empower girls with the tools they need to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and make a positive impact in their lives and communities.

The program also facilitated access to role models and mentors who inspired and guided the girls in their personal and academic journeys. Through the "Girls Can!" project, our organisation seeks to address the specific challenges faced by rural girls, unlock their potential, and create pathways for them to thrive in all aspects of their lives.



## 5. Adovcacy and awarweness raising programs



My name is Mapesho Prudence Bweupe

**I SAY NO TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

“Let's break the silence, amplify our voices and UNITE! to end GBV in Zambia”.

To drive sustainable change and create an enabling environment for women and adolescents, the Empowerment Initiative conducted advocacy and awareness campaigns throughout the year. These campaigns aimed to challenge gender norms, raise awareness about women's rights, and advocate for policy changes to address gender inequalities.

The organization collaborated with local communities, government entities, and other stakeholders to promote dialogue, share knowledge, and foster a supportive ecosystem for women's empowerment. Through workshops, community events, and media engagements, the initiative amplified the voices of women and adolescents, encouraging them to become active participants in advocating for their rights.



Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Girls-Zambia

@EIRWG-ZAMBIA





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## ✔ Launched Girls Empowerment Clubs in 3 schools

Supporting and mentoring at least 1,00 school girls from 3 different schools through a school girls empowerment club.

## ✔ 200 girls trained "DIY Re-usable sanitary cloth pad making

Impacted over 200 girls in school through the 'Do It yourself' sanitary cloth pad-making project and distributed over 500 packets of disposable sanitary pads.

## ✔ 4 advocacy and leadership Events

Reached out to 2,306 school girls from 15 schools with SRHR information, advocacy and leadership skills workshops, -challenging them to become advocates, leaders and change agents.

## ✔ 10 awareness campaigns and outreaches

Reached out to over 10 villages through focused group discussions, awareness campaigns and sensitization meetings on GBV, SRHR, women's issues and Women's rights.

## ✔ Created Safe spaces for women

Enabling women to openly share their stories, challenges, and successes, finding solace in the shared experiences of others. Women gain strength, inspiration, and a renewed sense of hope, knowing that they are not alone in their journey.

## ✔ 80 Women empowerment socially and economically

Trained 50 women in beehive construction, and beekeeping and supported them with 2 beehives each. Another 20 women were equipped with knowledge and skills in sustainable, climate-friendly agricultural practices and supported with 100kg of ground nuts seeds.

## OUR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE GLOBAL GOALS



**1 NO POVERTY**  
By implementing economic empowerment initiatives. Through skills training, access to resources, and support for income-generating activities, EIRWA helps women and adolescents lift themselves out of poverty and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
By providing training, resources, and support to women farmers, EIRWA enhances agricultural productivity, diversifies income sources, and contributes to improved food security in the communities it serves.

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
EIRWA focuses on improving the health and well-being of rural women and adolescents through its health programs. This includes sexual and reproductive health education, menstrual hygiene management activities, and linkage to essential healthcare services.

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  
EIRWA's School Girls Empowerment Program and curriculum address SDG 4 by promoting access to quality education for adolescent girls in rural communities. By providing educational support, life skills training, and career guidance, EIRWA empowers girls to overcome barriers to education and achieve their full potential.

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**  
EIRWA is dedicated to promoting gender equality by empowering rural women and girls. Through capacity-building programs, advocacy for women's rights, and creating safe spaces for interaction and sharing, EIRWA works towards breaking gender barriers, challenging gender norms, and fostering gender equality in rural communities.

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  
EIRWA actively addresses inequalities by focusing on the needs of rural women and adolescents who often face multiple layers of marginalization. By providing tailored support, promoting inclusivity, and advocating for their rights, EIRWA works towards reducing inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**  
EIRWA emphasizes the adoption of sustainable farming practices. The organization advocates for climate action at various levels and educates women and adolescents on the impacts of climate change, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship. Through these efforts, EIRWA actively contributes to combating climate change and creating a more sustainable future for rural communities.

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**  
EIRWA recognizes the importance of collaboration and partnerships in achieving sustainable development. By forging strategic alliances with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholders, EIRWA leverages collective resources, expertise, and networks to amplify its impact and contribute to the broader SDGs.

# 2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents (EIRWA) relies primarily on personal/Individual donations, personal funds, and social media micro-fundraising initiatives as its main sources of income. These funding streams have played a crucial role in sustaining our organization and supporting all our programs and initiatives. The dedication and commitment of our founder, Ireen Chikatula and her family, have been crucial in providing financial resources to sustain the organization.

EIRWA has also leveraged social media platforms to engage in micro-fundraising initiatives. Through strategic campaigns and awareness efforts, we have successfully mobilized support from a wide network of individuals.

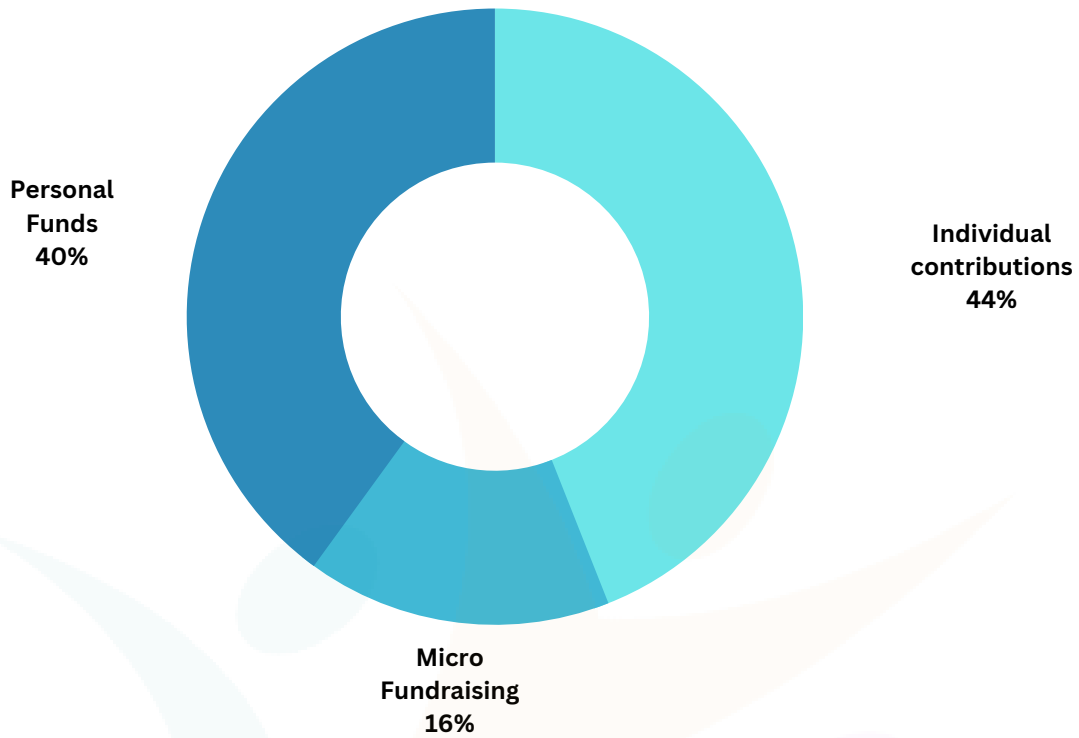
As we move forward, EIRWA remains committed to diversifying our funding sources and seeking partnerships with like-minded organizations and institutions. We recognize the importance of sustainable funding to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of our programs. By exploring grant opportunities, corporate sponsorships, and collaborations, we aim to strengthen our financial stability and expand our reach.

EIRWA is immensely grateful to all those who have contributed to our financial resources. Their generosity and belief in our mission have been vital in driving our efforts to create positive change. We remain accountable and transparent in managing our finances and are committed to making the best use of the funds entrusted to us.

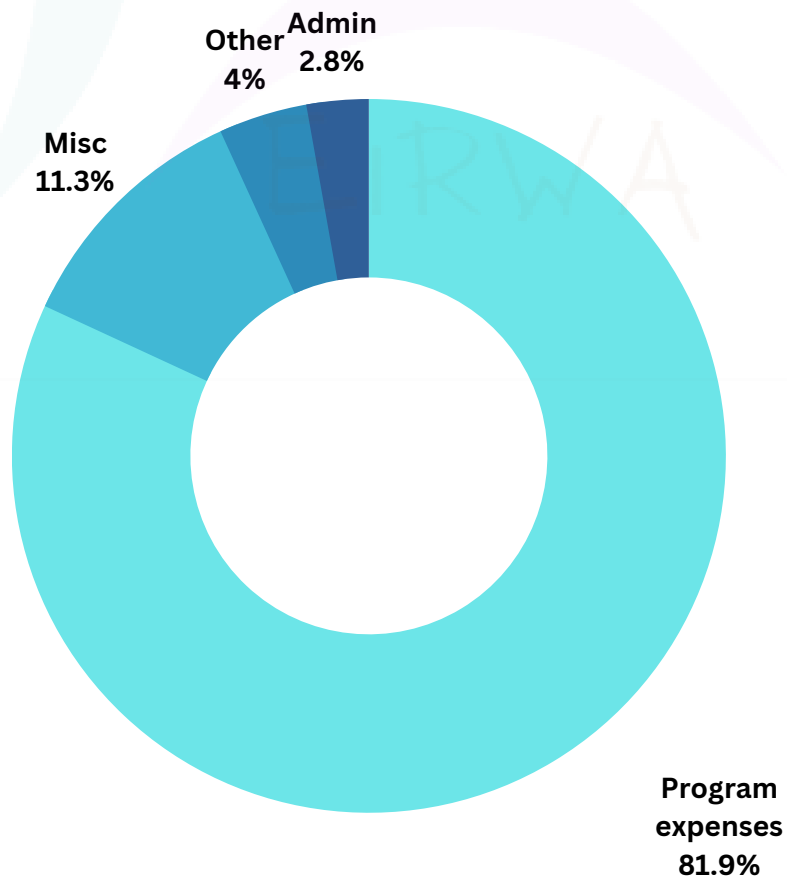




## Total Income: US\$12500.00



## Total Expenses: US\$12455.00



## A QUICK LOOK INTO THE FUTURE: 2023

As we enter the new year, here's a glimpse of what lies ahead. In 2023, we will:

- **Develop of School Girls Empowerment Curriculum** to address the unique needs of adolescent girls in rural communities in Zambia and beyond.
- **Rebranding and Legalization.** EIRWA will rebrand from EIRWG to EIRWA, reflecting its expanded focus on adolescents and commitment to inclusivity.
- **Explore options to establish a physical location,** serving as a hub for programs, training, and community engagement activities.
- **Organize workshops and training sessions to equip women and adolescents** with leadership, entrepreneurship, and community development skills.
- **Strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms** to assess program impact and improve strategies based on evidence.
- **Actively seek partnerships and engage in networks to leverage resources,** share best practices, and contribute to collective efforts in empowering rural women and adolescents.



## The Team



**Ireen Chikatula**  
Executive Director



**Docas Tembo**  
Community mobilisation



**Queen Nyirenda**  
Development Mmanager



**Mapesho Bweupe**  
Secretary to the Board



**Mervis Nangoyi Soko**  
Programs Officer



**Lindsay Nkhata**  
Fundraising Officer

## Peer mentors



**Felistus**



**Margaret**



**Dorothy Mwale**




**Jennifer**




**Deborah**

# Our 2022 in pictures



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