



Annual Report

An overview of our impact
and financial statements



Our Partners



A registered NGO in Australia and Sri Lanka. They are funding and fieldwork partner for projects in Sri Lanka



A registered charity in Australia. They regularly fund our projects in Malawi



An innovative construction firm in Malawi. ARK is our largest corporate sponsor, covering a large portion of our operational overheads in Malawi.



A social enterprise selling PAYG solar home systems in Malawi. Zuwa is partly owned by Empower Malawi and is a regular donor to operations in Malawi.



An foundation based in Northern Ireland that regularly funds initiatives within our school projects in Malawi.

Our Purpose



To empower underserved communities to take charge of their own development so that they are socially and economically self-reliant.

We believe that when it comes to sustainable development, local communities know best. They know what they would like to change in their communities and understand the challenges they face.

Our role is not simply to “teach them how to fish” but to help them organise and act on their own development priorities.

Our Mission

We partner with underserved communities in Malawi and Sri Lanka for up to 5 years to support their plans towards self-reliance.

Our work is focused on ensuring that communities are more socially and economically self-reliant by the end of this partnership. So that when we leave, our partner communities are better able to manage their own development projects and start new ones.

This is an inspiring journey that we make together in solidarity.



Overview by Executive Director



Our consciously small organisation continues to make a deep and meaningful impact across our partner communities in Malawi and Sri Lanka.

I'm incredibly proud of our dedicated team and the resilient partner communities we work with. There are so many milestones I could touch on but for the sake of brevity, I'd like to highlight **the launch of the school breakfast program at Mchinji Mission Primary School in Malawi** - the culmination of years of work, and the **expansion of our projects in both Malawi and Sri Lanka!**

2025 will be a year of transition, with plans underway phase out of mature partnerships in Malawi (Lilongwe) while deepening our engagement with new partner communities in both Malawi (Dowa and Ntchisi) and Sri Lanka (Trincomalee).

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our Community Champions. On behalf of the board, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our staff, supporters, and partner organisations.

Dr Shanil Samarakoon
Executive Director

Project Overview in Malawi



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While continuing our projects in **Lilongwe** and **Mchinji** (teal) , we have , after extensive scoping, expanded our projects into both **Ntchisi** and **Dowa** Districts (blue) in Central Malawi. The breakdown of our partnerships with schools and cooperatives in these districts is as follows:

Lilongwe (2018-2025)

2 x Schools - 3,500+ students

3 x Cooperatives - 367 households

Mchinji (2021-2026)

2 x School - 1,400+ students

2 x Cooperatives - 173 households

Dowa (2024-2028)

1x School - 561 students

Ntchisi (2024-2028)

1x School - 368 students

Impact Highlights



Over 4,800 students are receiving breakfast 2-3 days a week through community-run breakfast programs . Mchinji Mission Primary being the latest to launch their program this year.



An average of 266 students attend night classes every day school (at 4 schools) thanks to the installation of solar power.

Impact Highlights



Over 300 smallholder farmers have adopted agricultural farming practices such as composting and intercropping



We are currently supporting 5 agricultural cooperatives (over 100 households) with access to finance, training and support

Project Highlights

Launch of Breakfast Program at Mchinji Mission Primary

One of our biggest achievements for the year was the launch of a community-run breakfast program at Mchinji Mission Primary School. **950 students 3 days a week.** This is all from locally grown produce and administered by the community itself - this is the centrepiece of our work with schools in Malawi. It was an incredible honour and wonderfully uplifting to see the community come together to celebrate this amazing achievement. [You can find video footage on the launch here.](#)



Expansion to Kamwendo Primary (Ntchisi) and Katona Primary (Dowa)

After extensive scoping in Jan-Feb 2024, we expanded our project portfolio to cover communities in two new districts - Ntchisi and Dowa. In particular, we identified Kamwendo (368 students) and Katona Primary (561 students) as being vibrant starting points for our work in these two regions.

As of 2024, we conducted introductory training on permaculture (a design science for sustainability) in each of these communities - a diverse mix of 100 participants from each. This was followed up by the design of school farms to drive a school meal program, and the establishment of school orchards. 500 trees have been planted at each of these schools, featuring a mix of fruit and native 'shade' trees.

Impact Stories

Mphanga Primary School - Mchinji



“My name is Janet Nyirenda and I am a School Health and Nutrition (SHN) teacher at Mphanga Primary School.

I learned a lot about permaculture skills through Empower Malawi and I have applied them here in my own home garden.

Previously, this land was bare and used as a waste site.

Now I have transformed this land to be a home garden, I have planted different types of vegetables such as amaranth, pumpkin leaves, sweet potatoes, mustard, tomatoes and maize. I grow all this organically without the use of chemical fertilisers.

I sell some of this money for buying meat, eggs and soap and share the surplus with my neighbors.”

Impact Story

Mchinji Mission Primary School



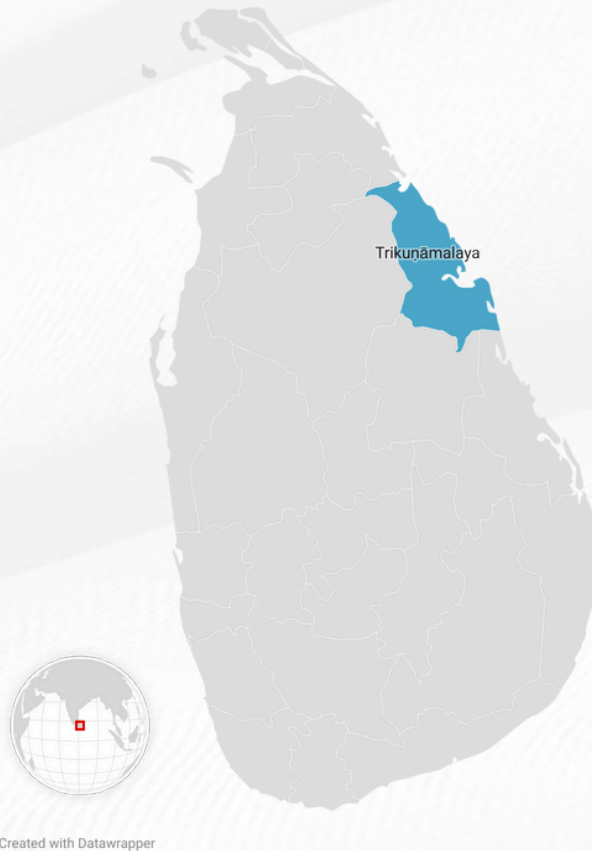
“I’m 15 years old and in Standard 7.

Before, we didn’t have a urinal and change room for girls. I was struggling during my monthly period. I was not doing well in class because I usually absent from school for up to 5 days every month.

Now since Empower came and built urinals and change rooms at the school, I am attending school regularly, even when I have my period because we have a room for changing pads.

I feel I am doing better in class and grateful for this development.”

Project Overview in Sri Lanka



Katakaraichenai Women’s Empowerment Project

In 2024, we continued our partnership with Vanni Hope and collaborated on a project to support the growth of a women’s agricultural cooperative in Trincomalee (North East).

This 2-year pilot project supported 34 households access training in financial management and sustainable agricultural practices dry zones. Of this, 20 households received low-interest loans (1%/month) to support their farms or small enterprises.

Based on our monitoring of this project, we intend to invest into further training and expanding the revolving fund to benefit a greater number of households.

Impact Story

Katakarachenai Women's Empowerment Project



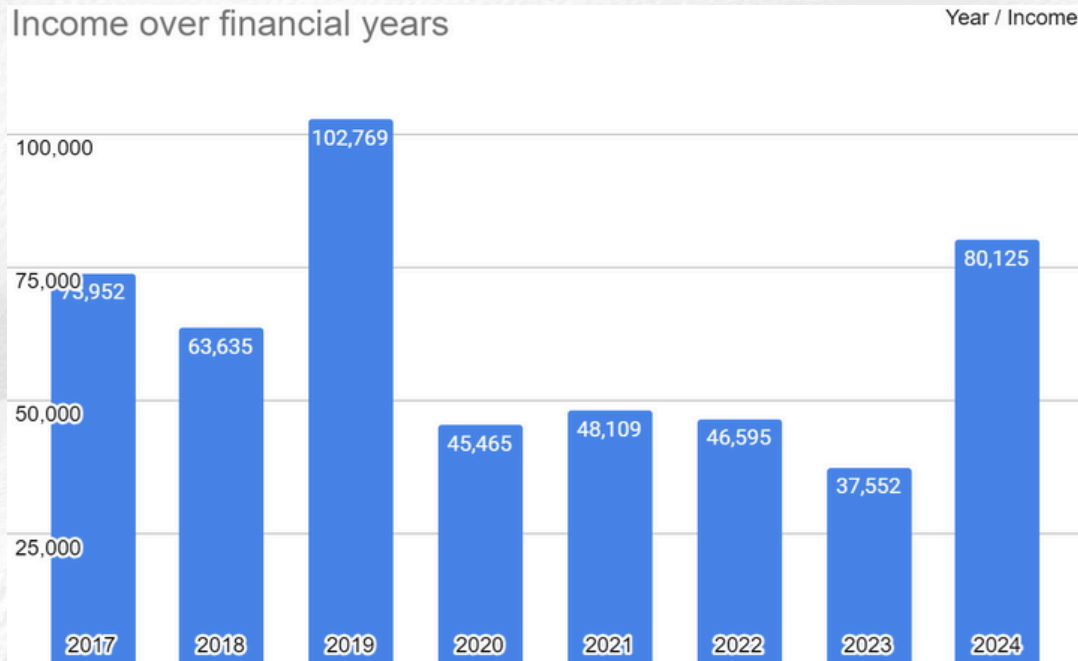
There has been strong interest among women of all ages in accessing training and affordable finance through this project. The original plan to support 28 households rapidly expanded to 39 due to demand.



Radhi is an example of a very active member of the co-op and cultivates brinjal, green peas, okra, and chili. She commended the loan scheme in allowing her to expand her garden - especially as it was affordable and flexible unlike other microfinance organisations.

Financial Highlights

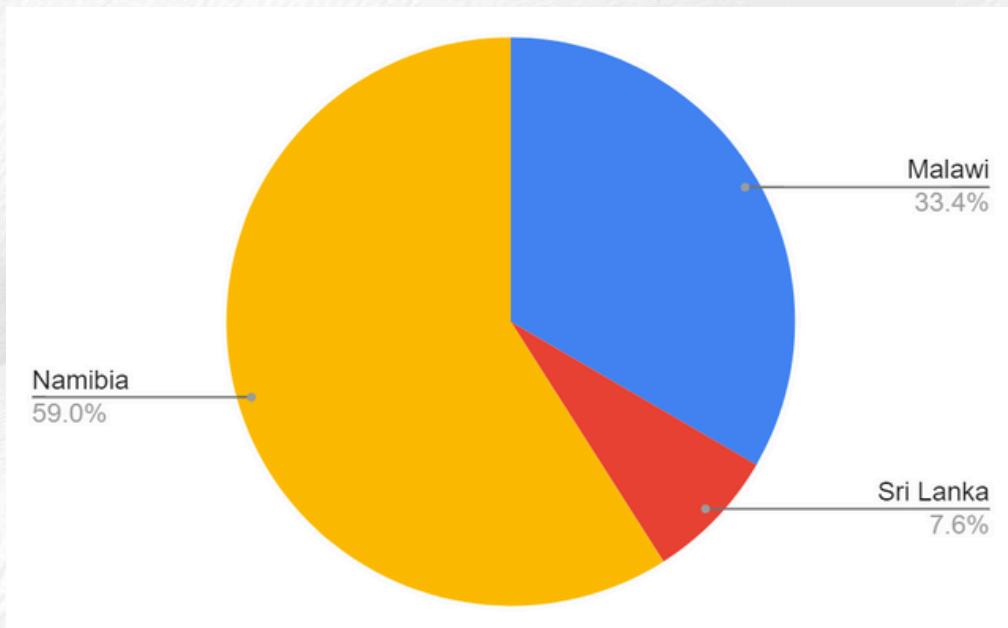
Income (AUD)



- Our donations as represented in our financial statements have increased significantly this year due to significant investments by our auspicing partner Towards a Better World's project in their new project in Namibia (AUD 43,000).
- Regular donors have dropped to 36 due to two of our regular donors passing away.
- Funding through Baby Angels Foundation and other local partners in Malawi such as Dosani Trust and ARK Construction are paid directly to Empower Malawi and are not reflected in our Australian inflows.
- A special thank you needs to go out to all our regular donors for continuing to support us and especially to the Napier family for being our biggest supporter this year both as a regular donor and a supporting partner organisation

Financial Highlights

Expenses (AUD)



- Our auspicious relationship (shared tax deductibility) with Towards a Better World is going strong with the set up of their new project in Namibia.
- Our main expenses, both past and anticipated, are associated with training and setting up co-ops which include capacity building workshops and topping up the revolving fund we've already set up.
- With schools, the majority of costs are associated with:
 - Meal program launch e.g. pots and plates
 - Seedlings and fertiliser i.e. to setup school farms
 - Training sessions e.g. permaculture workshops
- With co-ops, the major costs are:
 - Investment in revolving funds or concessional loans
 - Training initiatives e.g. cooperative governance

Financial Statements

Inquiries about our financial reporting can be directed to james.feng@empowerprojects.org

Empower Projects Limited
ABN 58 164 937 982

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024



Progressive Accounting and Taxation

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Burwood NSW 2134

Phone: 02-89713081 Fax: 02-80065252

Email: info@paat.com.au

Empower Projects Limited ABN 58 164 937 982

**Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income		
Interest received	117.21	51.53
Donations Received		
- Empower donations received	80,007.84	37,500.40
	<u>80,007.84</u>	<u>37,500.40</u>
Total income	<u>80,125.05</u>	<u>37,551.93</u>
Expenses		
Administrative Expenses		
- Bank Fees And Charges	222.00	214.47
- Accountancy	1,450.00	1,450.00
	<u>1,672.00</u>	<u>1,664.47</u>
Advertising and promotion		
- Subscription	593.24	104.03
	<u>593.24</u>	<u>104.03</u>
Donations	0.00	9.96
Project Expense		
- Malawi	26,006.40	30,186.10
- Sri Lanka	5,900.00	0.00
	<u>31,906.40</u>	<u>30,186.10</u>
Total expenses	<u>34,171.64</u>	<u>31,964.56</u>
Profit from Ordinary Activities before income tax	<u><u>45,953.41</u></u>	<u><u>5,587.37</u></u>

Empower Projects Limited ABN 58 164 937 982

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	<u>3</u>	58,657.47	12,704.06
Other	<u>4</u>	1,092.02	1,092.02
Total Current Assets		<u>59,749.49</u>	<u>13,796.08</u>
Total Assets		<u>59,749.49</u>	<u>13,796.08</u>
Net Assets		<u>59,749.49</u>	<u>13,796.08</u>
Equity			
Reserves		2,415.13	2,415.13
Retained profits		57,334.36	11,380.95
Total Equity		<u>59,749.49</u>	<u>13,796.08</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024**

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The director has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the needs of members.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the director has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:

(a) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and investments are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset (or group of related assets) is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and the present value of the asset's future cash flows discounted at the expected rate of return. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to the estimated recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

(c) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which, for floating rate financial assets, is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue recognised related to the provision of services is determined with reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the end of the reporting period and where outcome of the contract can be estimated reliably. Stage of completion is determined with reference to the services performed to date as a percentage of total anticipated services to be performed. Where the outcome cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent that related expenditure is recoverable.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached financial statements and compilation report of Progressive Accounting and Taxation.

Empower Projects Limited ABN 58 164 937 982

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
Note 2: Revenue		
Operating Activities:		
Interest revenue	117.21	51.53
Other operating revenue:		
- Empower donations received	80,007.84	37,500.40
	<u>80,125.05</u>	<u>37,551.93</u>
Note 3: Cash assets		
Bank accounts:		
- Bendigo #601	9,710.14	7,483.82
- Bendigo #577	5.40	5.36
- Bendigo #586	48,941.93	5,214.88
	<u>58,657.47</u>	<u>12,704.06</u>
Note 4: Other Assets		
Current		
Other - Bank account closing balance	1,092.02	1,092.02
	<u>1,092.02</u>	<u>1,092.02</u>

Empower Projects Limited ABN 58 164 937 982

Director's Declaration

The director has determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies prescribed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The director of the company declares that:

1. **the financial statements and notes, present fairly the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;**
2. **in the director's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.**

The director is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and the disclosure of all material and relevant information.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the director.

James Feng

SIGN HERE

James Feng
Director

Dated: 02/12/24

Compilation Report to Empower Projects Limited

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Empower Projects Limited, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Profit and Loss for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial report has been prepared is set out in Note 1. The extent to which Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements have or have not been adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial report is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Director

The director of Empower Projects Limited is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the significant accounting policies used are appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the director, we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the significant accounting policies as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the significant accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards).

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the director who is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements may not be suitable for other purposes. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

Progressive Accounting and Taxation
Suite 506 180-186 Burwood Road
Burwood NSW

2 December, 2024



2024



Annual Report

Documenting our impact and financials across the financial year to our key stakeholders

