



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



It has been a remarkable year at Empower Projects. We successfully wrapped up a major project in Sri Lanka and strengthened our collaborations in both Lilongwe and Mchinji in Malawi.

Throughout the past year, our achievements have been extraordinary. I'm incredibly proud of our dedicated team and the resilient partner communities we work with. Among the many milestones, **the launch of the community-run meal program at Kabadula Primary in Lilongwe** stands out. Serving over 1,700 students, it is our largest school initiative to date. Additionally, the **introduction of solar irrigation at Mphanga Primary School** has provided essential water resources to the wider community and supported the expansion of the school's orchards.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are gearing up for a year of growth and impact, with **new community projects planned for both Malawi and Sri Lanka.**

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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We are currently working in two of Malawi's central districts, Lilongwe and Mchinji. 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

Impact Highlights



Over 4,600 students are receiving breakfast 2-3 days a week through community-run breakfast programs



An average of 266 students attend night classes every day school thanks to the installation of solar power

Impact Highlights



176 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 Kabadula Primary

One of our biggest achievements for the year was the launch of a community-run breakfast program at Kabadula Primary School. This has been 4 years in the making, mainly due to COVID shutdowns, and is now providing meals to over 1,700 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. Our work through the next 12 months will be to ensure it goes from strength to strength.



Solar Irrigation at Mphanga Primary School

With the invaluable support of our partner, **SoPowerful Foundation (Netherlands)** we have successfully completed the installation of a solar irrigation system. Previously, the rainwater harvesting system at the school was under immense pressure, as there was no running water within a 1km radius, leading to heavy reliance from the wider community. Now, with the new solar system, we have a stable and ample water supply.

We recently planted nearly 2,000 trees, half of them fruit-bearing, to take full advantage of this water access - this was supported by **Baby Angels Foundation (Ireland)**. These trees will not only green the environment but also provide fruits and herbs to enhance the school's breakfast program. Much like Kabadula, this school runs a community meal program, offering breakfast to students three times a week. The solar irrigation system will not only support these efforts but also help the school generate additional funds through agriculture. Together, we are sowing the seeds for a self-sustaining future.

Impact Stories

Mphanga Primary School - Mchinji



“I am Mercy Banda, a School Health and Nutrition (SHN) teacher at Mphanga Primary School. I have been here for six years.

I have seen so many changes as a result of Empower Malawi’s projects here at Mphanga Primary School. Before Empower Malawi came here, **the school had no health facilities such as composting toilets, urinals, water storage and piped water. That was risky to me for my work as an SHN teacher.** But as of now, the school has these facilities for health purposes.

Mphanga school had no meal program either, students just came and went back to their respective homes without eating anything. To me, it was also a challenge for my afternoon lessons. Students were struggling to pay attention and as a result, many students failed their exams.

However, with the establishment of the meal program, students now are doing well in class because they get food here at school and have energy during afternoon hours allowing them to pay more attention. This makes my work as a teacher much easier!

The results are clear, we have seen a large increase in the success rate of students going to high school – from 46 % to 87%!

Impact Story



Milindi Cooperative, Lilongwe

“ I am Felesi Macdonald and I am a member of Milindi Cooperative , an agricultural cooperative in Lilongwe District.

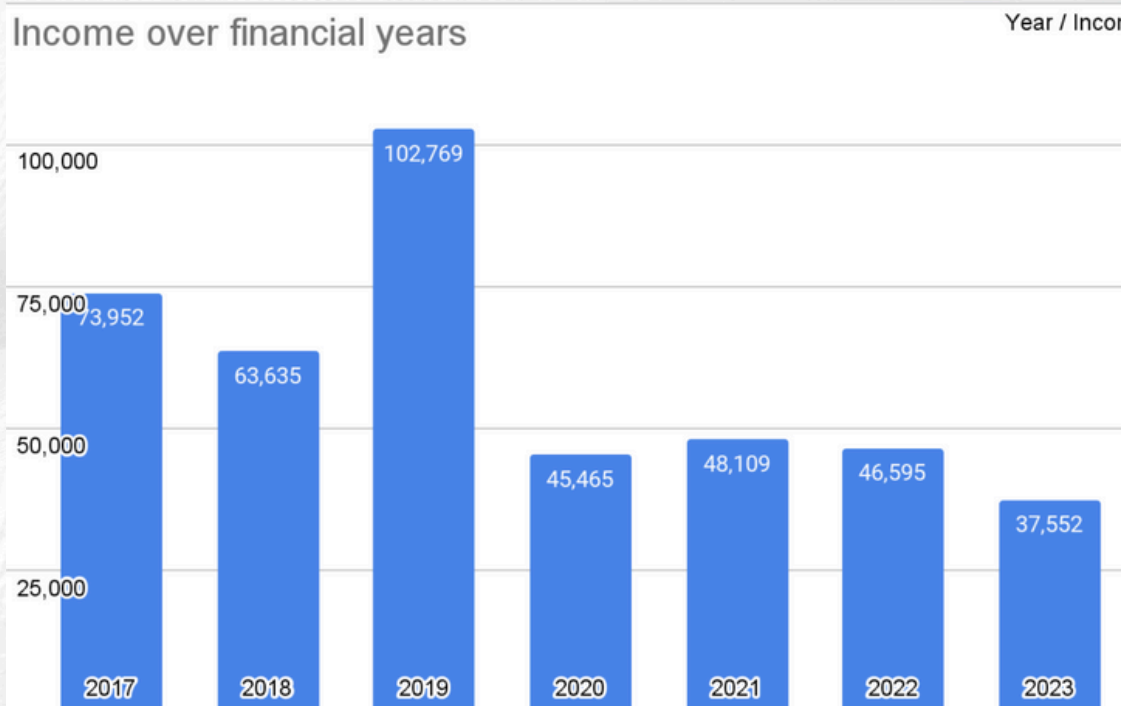
We currently have 56 members and I am currently the treasurer of the cooperative. My family have gained a lot through being part of the cooperative. In particular, the micro loans given to members to start up or expand small businesses (in addition to farming)

I have been able to boost her family's income through this facility by selling dry fish and clothing in my community. The profits from this enterprise are making it possible to send my child to high school , and purchase essential groceries for my household.

I have also learnt a lot through both the business trainings and cooperative management trainings organised by Empower Malawi”

Financial Highlights

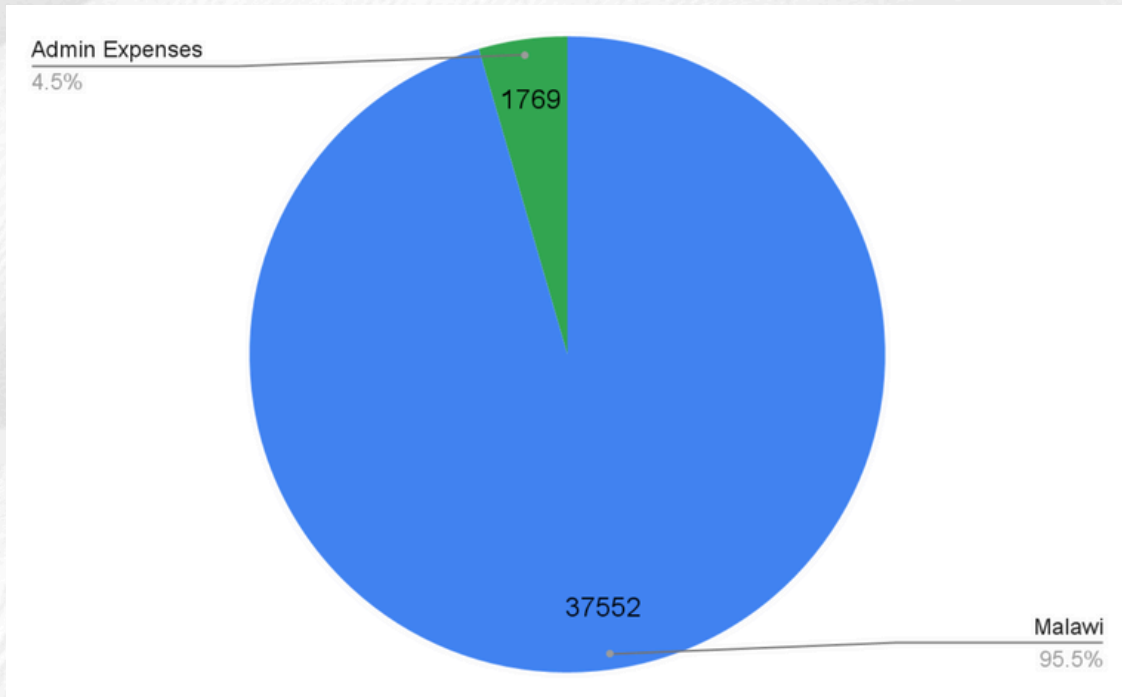
Income (AUD)



- Our donations as represented in our financial statements have experienced a slight increase if compared to last year without taking into account the Covid-19 grant received from FY 22.
- Regular donors have increased to 38 (an average of AUD 35.8/month)
- Our overall project income were supported by local fundraising efforts from our partner organisations. Empower Malawi , ARK Construction, Zuwa Energy (Malawi) all contribute towards project overheads in Malawi.

Financial Highlights

Expenses (AUD)



- The continuation of projects in Malawi e.g. Kabadula Primary School Meal Program and Mtengemanga Cooperative were the primary expenses in FY 2023.
- Very low admin expenses in Australia, **95.5 cents of every dollar went to project work**
- No expenses in Sri Lanka. We are exploring opportunities for the future.

Financial Statements

Body

Empower Projects Limited ABN 58 164 937 982

**Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023**



Progressive Accounting and Taxation

Suite 7 170 Burwood Road
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 2023**

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income		
Interest received	51.53	11.95
Donations Received		
- Empower donations received	37,500.40	33,083.52
	<u>37,500.40</u>	<u>33,083.52</u>
Subsidies received	0.00	13,500.00
Total income	<u>37,551.93</u>	<u>46,595.47</u>
Expenses		
Administrative Expenses		
- Bank Fees And Charges	214.47	186.00
- Accountancy	1,450.00	1,835.00
	<u>1,664.47</u>	<u>2,021.00</u>
Advertising and promotion		
- Subscription	104.03	1,054.96
	<u>104.03</u>	<u>1,054.96</u>
Donations	9.96	5.61
Project Expense		
- Malawi	30,186.10	43,946.77
	<u>30,186.10</u>	<u>43,946.77</u>
Total expenses	<u>31,964.56</u>	<u>47,028.34</u>
Profit from Ordinary Activities before income tax	<u><u>5,587.37</u></u>	<u><u>(432.87)</u></u>

Empower Projects Limited ABN 58 164 937 982

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	2	12,704.06	6,316.69
Receivables		0.00	800.00
Other	3	1,092.02	1,092.02
Total Current Assets		13,796.08	8,208.71
Total Assets		13,796.08	8,208.71
Net Assets		13,796.08	8,208.71
Equity			
Reserves		2,415.13	2,415.13
Retained profits		11,380.95	5,793.58
Total Equity		13,796.08	8,208.71

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
Note 2: Cash assets		
Bank accounts:		
- Bendigo #601	7,483.82	1,133.23
- Bendigo #577	5.36	5.35
- Bendigo #586	5,214.88	5,178.11
	<u>12,704.06</u>	<u>6,316.69</u>
Note 3: Other Assets		
Current		
Other	1,092.02	1,092.02
	<u>1,092.02</u>	<u>1,092.02</u>

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

Directors' 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 2023 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.

Dated:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith', written over a rectangular box.

22/11/2023

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 2023, 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 7 170 Burwood Road
Burwood NSW**

30 November, 2023



2023



Annual Report

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

