



2022

Annual Report





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A Letter from the CEO

Dear PoP Family,

As I reflect on how far we have come this year as a global community, I am grateful for the accomplishments and celebrations that have moved us closer to every child having access to quality education. **This year, we celebrate 15 years of impacting nearly 300,000 students** globally (and counting!), and look forward to making a bigger impact in 2023.

This past year, we faced challenges recovering from the pandemic. However, our Pencils of Promise (PoP) community galvanized and we kept our promise at the forefront. **We distributed 7,500 learning resources**, 9,564 students were able to use e-readers, and we provided 112 schools with menstrual health resources.

Our deep devotion continued and we chronicled the real-life stories of children on the pathway to their dreams. The premiere of [I Promise You](#) explored and applauded all the gifts and talents of our communities. On the heels of *I Promise You*, I had the opportunity to visit Ghana and Guatemala. During these transformative experiences, I saw and felt

how **just one safe school can transform an entire community**, and I realized the breadth of impact we collectively provide. Our thread of connectivity runs long and deep. These experiences later sparked [A Girl's Promise](#) campaign, which aims to serve 90,000 girls throughout the world with the support they need in school to thrive.

The momentum continued and the **2022 PoP Gala** was our first in-person gala since 2019. We reconnected with old friends, met new ones, and carried our mission forward. This has been an exciting year and I look forward to celebrating our 15th anniversary with you.

On behalf of everyone at PoP, I thank each of one of you from the deepest parts of my heart. As I renew my promise to the entire PoP community, I hope you are inspired to do the same.

In gratitude,



Kailee Scales
CEO, Pencils of Promise



PoP Stories



Gbedebu* is 11 years old and is in 6th grade at Ave Dzalele EP Primary School in Ghana. His favorite teacher is Mr. Emmanuel Awadzi because he taught him how to pay attention during lessons and how to read. Gbedebu loves learning mathematics because it will help him be a pilot, which is what he wants to be when he grows up. When thinking about his proudest accomplishment, Gbedebu said it was knowing how to read fluently and his ability to play soccer very well.



“Thanks to the Teacher Support program I was able to realize how capable I am as a teacher of promoting self-development conditions to improve the educational quality that I share with my dear children. I discovered that with a little effort I could greatly improve the feasibility process by planning the activities to be carried out. Thanks to the strategies and methods that the Teacher Support program shared, I was able to optimize the development of learning and facilitate the process, as well as integrate various activities that greatly impact education.”

—Karla Eunice Estrada Regil, Teacher



Anjie* is ten years old and is in Primary 5 at Sae Preschool and Primary School in Laos. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Phetsamone because she is supportive and helps students learn. Anjie loves learning math because it helps her solve problems. She also loves reading and studying the Lao language. When she grows up, Anjie hopes to become a soldier so that she can protect and develop her country.

*Name changed for students

Impact Highlights

Evidence on the returns on investment in education reveals that every additional year of primary school will yield an average of 8.8% in future earnings¹.

Additionally, every dollar invested in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming generates \$4.30 in observed benefits (e.g., healthcare cost savings)².



In Ghana, PoP completed eight school builds, launched programming in 30 new Teacher Support schools, and started WASH programs in 20 new schools. They started conversations to formalize a partnership between two new Teacher Training Colleges and piloted PoP's first digital reading application in two schools.



In Guatemala, PoP continued to provide teachers with workshops and coaching sessions and continued to support students, teachers and parents by delivering materials directly to community leaders who then distributed them to parents and teachers. The team completed seven school builds at the end of the year and was able to graduate 19 schools out of the Teacher Support and WASH program. In addition, a Guatemala study in 2021 indicated that 91% of parents believed that their children could go to school while on their period, compared to just 23% of parents prior to PoP programming.



In Laos, the team completed 10 schools and held meetings to continue planning for the new Memorandum of Understanding. Part of this planning process included the development of two new program pilots: Lao Teacher Support and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The team also completed their first longitudinal study after three years of conducting the evaluation. Results of the study indicate that students at PoP schools have shown almost a 10–15% increase in test scores for each grade as compared to students in schools without PoP programming.

1 Psacharopoulos & Patrinos, 2018

2 Hutton, 2012

Destination of Your Dollars

PoP is dedicated to improving student literacy around the globe by building schools and providing high quality Teacher Support and WASH programs in Ghana, Guatemala and Laos. Your contribution goes well beyond a school build. When you donate, you help create sustainable change in students' lives and in communities around the world.

Teacher Support



202

SCHOOLS



1,084

**TEACHERS
TRAINED**



42,663

**STUDENTS
IMPACTED**

WASH



161

SCHOOLS



32,823

**STUDENTS
IMPACTED**

School Builds & WASH

PoP Snapshot



589

SCHOOLS IN
OPERATION

25

NEW BUILD
PROJECTS

119,060

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

WASH Schools in the Program



90

IN GHANA

22

IN GUATEMALA

49

IN LAOS

Students Benefited by WASH Program



23,153

IN GHANA

589

IN GUATEMALA

589

IN LAOS

Teacher Support

Schools in
the Program



120

IN GHANA

22
IN GUATEMALA

60
IN LAOS

Teachers in
the Program



819

IN GHANA

204
IN GUATEMALA

61
IN LAOS

Students Benefited
by Teacher Support



35,426

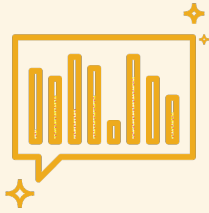
IN GHANA

3,848
IN GUATEMALA

3,389
IN LAOS

Financials

Support Income



\$5,666,763

TOTAL SUPPORT INCOME IN 2022



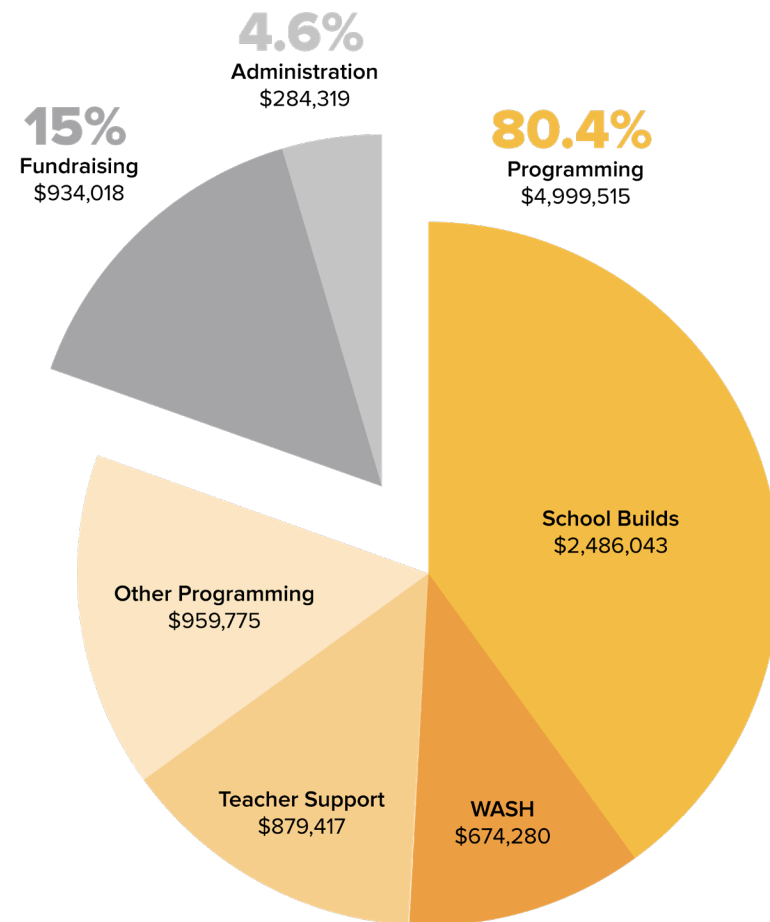
\$2,260,607

2022 END OF YEAR NET ASSETS

Expenses

\$6,217,852

TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2022





1115 Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10010
212 777 3170

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