



RURAL BRIGHT HORIZONS

Annual Report 2022

Expanding Our Reach, Deepening Impact

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A Message from Our Director

The year 2022 was a period of significant growth and learning for Rural Bright Horizons LLC. Building upon the foundational successes of our inaugural year, we embraced the theme "Expanding Our Reach, Deepening Impact." This guiding principle propelled us to new communities, inspired innovative approaches, and solidified our commitment to bringing sustainable energy solutions to those most in need. It is with immense pride that we share the story of our progress, a narrative of expanded horizons and lives transformed by the power of light and opportunity.

Following our initial foray into rural electrification in 2021, we entered 2022 with a clear mandate: to scale our operations responsibly and to ensure that our interventions created lasting, meaningful change. We ventured into new territories, taking on more ambitious projects like the electrification of Sunstone Creek, including its vital school and health clinic. This year also saw the launch of our pioneering "EmpowerFlow Initiative" in Whispering Pines Community, a project that uniquely integrated energy access with livelihood enhancement through solar-powered irrigation. These initiatives were not just about increasing the number of connections; they were about deepening the quality of impact, touching more facets of community life, from education and healthcare to agricultural productivity.

The journey was not without its trials. We navigated the complexities of training local technicians,

contended with unpredictable weather patterns that tested our project timelines, and grappled with global supply chain disruptions that affected the cost of essential components. Yet, each challenge surmounted strengthened our resolve and refined our strategies. The resilience of our team, coupled with the unwavering support of our partner communities and the generosity of our funders, enabled us to turn these obstacles into stepping stones for growth.

This report chronicles the milestones of 2022: the new villages illuminated, the community services enhanced, the innovative programs launched, and the critical lessons learned. It reflects our commitment to not only providing electricity but also to fostering local capacity and sustainable development. We extend our profound gratitude to the Global Energy Access Fund, Helios Solar Solutions Inc., our dedicated community partners, and every individual who contributed to our mission. As we reflect on 2022, we are energized by the tangible difference we have made and are more determined than ever to continue expanding our reach and deepening our impact in the years ahead.

Together, we are Rural Bright Horizons.

Sincerely,

Zakaria BOUCHBOUK
Director, Rural Bright Horizons LLC

Our Enduring Mission and Vision

Mission

To help remote villages access power through electrification projects.

Vision

A world where every remote community is empowered by sustainable energy, fostering brighter futures and equitable opportunities.

Core Values

- **Community-Centric:** We place the needs and aspirations of the communities we serve at the heart of our work.
- **Sustainability:** We are committed to providing environmentally sound and economically viable energy solutions.
- **Integrity:** We operate with transparency, accountability, and the highest ethical standards.
- **Innovation:** We continuously seek and implement creative solutions to overcome challenges in rural electrification.
- **Empowerment:** We strive to build local capacity and foster self-reliance within the communities.



2022: A Year of Growth – Projects and Impact

The year 2022 was pivotal for Rural Bright Horizons LLC, defined by strategic expansion and a concerted effort to deepen the positive changes brought about by access to sustainable energy. Guided by our theme, "Expanding Our Reach, Deepening Impact," we successfully extended our operations, bringing light and new opportunities to a significantly larger number of households and community facilities. Our key initiatives included the ambitious "Project Radiance" in Sunstone Creek, the innovative "EmpowerFlow Initiative" in Whispering Pines Community, and the continuation and expansion of our "Light Up Lives" solar home system program. Collectively, these efforts in 2022 directly benefited 230 households, impacting approximately 1150 individuals, and crucially, extended electrification to vital community services like a school and a health clinic.



230

Households Reached in 2022



1150

Individuals Impacted in 2022

2

Key Community Facilities (School & Clinic) Electrified

Project Radiance: Illuminating Sunstone Creek's Future

Sunstone Creek, a larger and more centrally organized village than our initial project sites, presented an opportunity to implement a more comprehensive electrification solution. "Project Radiance" involved the design and installation of a 25kW solar micro-grid, a significant step up in capacity from our 2021 projects. A key feature of this project was the strategic decision to prioritize connections not only to 70 residential households (approximately 350 individuals) but also to the village school and the local health clinic. This approach aimed to create a ripple effect, enhancing both individual well-being and the quality of essential community services.

The electrification of the Sunstone Creek school transformed the learning environment. With reliable lighting, students could engage in evening studies, and teachers could utilize modern teaching aids. The health clinic, previously hampered by a lack of consistent power, could now offer improved services, including the reliable refrigeration of vaccines and the ability to handle medical emergencies after dark. The impact on community health and education was profound and immediate.

EmpowerFlow Initiative: Energy for Livelihoods in Whispering Pines

In Whispering Pines Community, Rural Bright Horizons LLC piloted the "EmpowerFlow Initiative," a groundbreaking project that sought to directly link energy access with economic empowerment. This initiative went beyond basic household electrification by introducing five solar-powered water pumps for irrigation, alongside providing solar home systems to 60 households (approximately 300 individuals). The aim was to demonstrate how sustainable energy could enhance agricultural productivity and create new income-generating opportunities for farming families.

The solar water pumps enabled farmers to cultivate their land more effectively, particularly during dry seasons, leading to increased crop yields and food security. This integration of energy for productive use was a key strategic shift for our organization, moving towards a more holistic approach to rural development.

Continuing the Light: Expansion of the "Light Up Lives" Program

Building on the positive reception of our 2021 solar home system distributions, Rural Bright Horizons continued and expanded the "Light Up Lives" program in 2022. An additional 100 solar home systems were

distributed across three smaller, dispersed settlements that were not yet suitable for micro-grid solutions. This expansion brought essential lighting to

approximately 500 more individuals, further reducing energy poverty and improving living conditions in these remote communities.

Voices from the Community: The Widening Circle of Light



The expansion of our work in 2022 brought Rural Bright Horizons LLC into contact with new communities, each with unique stories and aspirations. The feedback we received continued to be a powerful motivator. Dr. Ben Carter, the sole medical practitioner at the newly electrified Sunstone Creek Clinic, shared a particularly compelling account.

"The solar power system installed by Rural Bright Horizons has been nothing short of revolutionary for us. We now have consistent lighting, 24/7. Our refrigeration units for vaccines and medicines are stable. We can operate essential diagnostic

equipment. Most importantly, we can attend to emergencies at any hour. This isn't just electricity; it's a lifesaver for Sunstone Creek and the surrounding areas we serve."

- Dr. Ben Carter, Sunstone Creek Clinic

In Whispering Pines Community, the sentiment was echoed by farmers benefiting from the EmpowerFlow Initiative. Mrs. Lena Hanson, a mother of four, shared her experience:

"The darkness used to steal so much of our day. Now, my children can study, and I can finish my weaving at night. But the water pump... that has changed our farm. Our vegetable yield has doubled this season. This means more food for my family and a little extra to sell at the market. Rural Bright Horizons has brought us not just light, but a way to improve our livelihoods."

- Mrs. Lena Hanson, Whispering Pines Community

Navigating Growth: Challenges Encountered in 2022

While 2022 was a year of significant expansion, this growth came with a new set of challenges that tested our adaptability and strategic planning.

Shortage of Skilled Local Technicians

As we moved towards larger micro-grids, the technical expertise required surpassed what was readily available. This necessitated the development and implementation of intensive training programs, highlighting the critical link between technology deployment and human capacity development.

Increased Costs (Global Supply Chain)

2022 saw an increased cost of solar panels and batteries due to global supply chain issues, impacting our project budgets and procurement strategies. This emphasized the importance of staying agile in our procurement processes.

Beyond these major challenges, the increased scale of operations also brought greater administrative and logistical complexities, providing valuable lessons for structuring our operations for even greater scale.

Unpredictable Weather Patterns

A prolonged and severe monsoon season significantly delayed project timelines in Sunstone Creek. This experience underscored the need for more robust contingency planning and climate resilience considerations in our project designs.

Milestones of Progress: Key Achievements in 2022

The year 2022 was marked by several significant achievements for Rural Bright Horizons LLC, reflecting our successful efforts to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

- **Successful electrification of a school and a health clinic** in Sunstone Creek ("Project Radiance").
- **Launch of the innovative "EmpowerFlow Initiative"** in Whispering Pines Community, integrating household electrification with solar-powered irrigation.
- **Established a basic local technician training module**, a crucial first step towards building local capacity.
- **Featured in a national newspaper** for our impactful rural development work, significantly raising our organization's profile.

The overall expansion of our operations – reaching 230 households and over a thousand individuals – was a testament to our team's dedication and the effectiveness of our approach.

Financial Resilience and Growth: 2022 Financial Overview

In 2022, Rural Bright Horizons LLC experienced significant growth in its financial capacity, enabling us to expand our project portfolio and deepen our impact.

Category	Amount
Income	
Grant from the "Global Energy Access Fund"	\$100,000
Corporate Partnership with "Helios Solar Solutions Inc."	\$30,000
Community Fundraising Events	\$15,000
Total Income	\$145,000
Expenditure	
Project Costs (Micro-grids, Solar Home Systems, Pumps)	\$90,000
Training Programs	\$10,000
Operational Overhead	\$20,000
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	\$10,000
Total Expenditure	\$130,000
Net Balance Carried Forward	\$15,000

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our funders and partners for their trust and investment in our work.

Looking Forward: Future Outlook at the Close of 2022

As 2022 concluded, Rural Bright Horizons LLC looked back on a year of substantial achievements and forward to a future brimming with potential. Our future outlook was one of strategic scaling, innovation, and a strengthened commitment to sustainable community development.

Our primary programmatic goal was to **scale up the EmpowerFlow model**, refining it based on initial learnings and replicating it in other suitable communities.

We committed to **developing a more comprehensive technician training program**, aiming to create a structured curriculum to equip local individuals with advanced skills.

On the funding front, a key objective was to **seek multi-year funding partnerships** to allow for more strategic planning and investment in organizational capacity.

Internally, we aimed to continue strengthening our operational systems, particularly in project management, M&E, and financial controls. We also planned to invest further in our team.

The close of 2022 saw Rural Bright Horizons LLC poised for a new phase of growth and innovation. With a clear strategic direction and a passionate team, we were eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities of 2023.

Acknowledgements

Rural Bright Horizons LLC extends its profound gratitude to the many partners, supporters, and community members who made 2022 a year of remarkable progress and impact.

We offer our sincere thanks to the **Global Energy Access Fund** for their substantial grant. Your belief in our model has been transformative.

Our appreciation goes to **Helios Solar Solutions Inc.** for their generous corporate partnership. Your contribution of funding, equipment, and technical expertise significantly enhanced our capacity.

We are deeply indebted to the **communities of Sunstone Creek, Whispering Pines, and the other settlements** where we worked in 2022. Your collaboration and enthusiasm were fundamental to our success.

To the **local leaders, school administrators, and healthcare professionals** in our project areas, thank you for your partnership and guidance.

We commend our dedicated **Rural Bright Horizons team and volunteers**. Your hard work, resilience, and unwavering commitment were the driving forces behind our accomplishments.

Thank you to everyone who supported our **community fundraising events**. Your grassroots support is a vital source of encouragement.

As we reflect on a successful 2022, we are reminded that progress is a collaborative endeavor. We look forward to strengthening these partnerships and forging new ones.