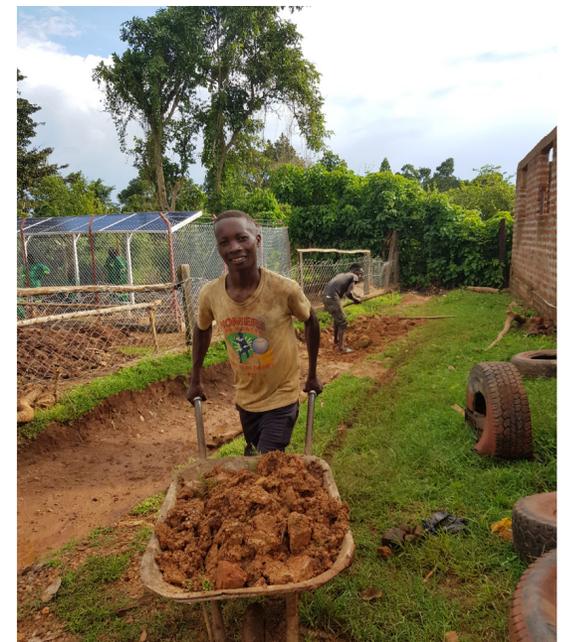


2021 ANNUAL REPORT



SELF

SOLAR ELECTRIC LIGHT FUND





IN 2021, SELF:

- Installed 23 clean water stations in the Kalalé District of Benin, delivering 24-hour access to water for drinking, agriculture, and livestock
- Expanded upon previous work in Bukyerimba, Uganda, adding nine solar streetlights to provide safe passage—as well as a space for socializing and studying—at night
- Purveyed three solar-powered refrigerators for women in Uganda, enabling them to store cold food and drinks for sale to earn an income
- Established a partnership to increase our support for Ugandan women entrepreneurs through access to commercial-scale solar-powered cookers
- Completed an extensive report for the World Health Organization (WHO) outlining problems surrounding vaccine storage in Haiti, with remedies to improve vaccine access
- Embarked on a multi-country COVID-19 vaccine monitoring assessment, following the success of the first WHO report
- Began planning for a project to electrify homes along the US-Mexico border in order to reduce the burden of electricity costs on low-income families
- Planned training workshops in Southern California to equip Indigenous technicians and community leaders with information on their hybrid solar-generator-battery systems



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The past year has brought home some important lessons for all of us. As COVID-19 continues to threaten lives, and the impacts of climate change grow stronger by the day, we're reminded that our greatest challenges do not start and end at the border. They are global. And we, as global citizens, must work together toward shared solutions.

SELF has always been an organization of problem solvers. We know that just as climate change and poverty are deeply intertwined, so must be our response(s) to them. If we want to create a better future, we need to pursue smart, integrated solutions that address the needs of our people and our planet.

Energy access has proven itself to be a catalyst for progress—improving life today and for generations to come. As you read through this report, you'll see how solar can reshape the very structures of opportunity for rural communities, all while protecting fragile ecosystems. That's a profound thing.

At a time when our world's challenges can feel overwhelming, let this be a spark of hope. It takes commitment, but we are capable of changing our world for the better. In fact, with your support, we already are.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Freling
Executive Director



CLEAN WATER ACCESS

Millions of people in Benin lack access to safe drinking water. Clean water sources in the country are often inaccessible, forcing many to turn to unsanitary sources, resulting in high levels of waterborne illness.

To combat this, in 2021 SELF installed 23 clean water stations throughout the Kalalé District in Benin. This adds to 20 previously installed stations, several of which have been operating for more than a decade, successfully delivering clean water and generating sufficient maintenance funds. The stations use a solar-powered pump to move water from an aquifer to an elevated reservoir during daylight hours. At night, the system relies on gravity to deliver the water so that people are never without access.

The impacts of this system go far beyond clean drinking water. The pumps also provide water for livestock and agricultural production, meaning children no longer go hungry, instances of malnutrition are abated, and excess crops can be sold to generate income. Especially as the world grapples with rising energy and food prices under the COVID-19 pandemic, this opportunity is a lifeline. And with plans for 2022—including an additional water station, five vaccine refrigerators, and 15 PV lights—we know this is only the beginning.



POWERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SELF's ongoing work in Bukyerimba, Uganda continued in 2021. In partnership with the Rape Hurts Foundation, past initiatives focused on creating safer spaces for women and girls, who must often travel great distances to collect water after nightfall, opening them up to risk of sexual violence. By installing 17 solar-powered lights, plus a solar water pump, reported sexual assaults dropped by 30%.

Inspired by this result, but knowing more needed to be done, we expanded our work in 2021. Nine additional streetlights were installed, lighting the way for safer travels under nightfall.

But safety is just the start. True gender equity requires opportunities for women to participate in the economy and earn an income. With the newly available water, women could begin growing and preparing food and cold drinks for sale. All they needed was a place to store their products. To help get their business off the ground, SELF installed three solar-powered refrigerators. These refrigerators not only helped jumpstart operations, but they're also allowing the women to scale their enterprises.

SELF continues to look for new ways to build agency and reduce barriers to entrepreneurship in villages like Bukyerimba. In 2021, we laid the groundwork for our next phase, establishing relationships that will help our work go even further. In partnership with Solarfire, SELF will provide commercial-scale solar cookers to allow entrepreneurs to dehydrate, bake, and roast the food they grow.



PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Hellen Tanyinga, Founder of the Rape Hurts Foundation

The Rape Hurts Foundation began in trauma. At 11 years old, while fetching water from the village well, I was raped under a dark night sky. When I reported it, I was told it was my fault. I was even told I should marry this man, who was someone I knew, someone who was supposed to protect me. As if the assault wasn't enough pain, I was hurt again and again by the lack of support from my community.

I turned my pain into action. I became the first female university graduate in my village and started the Rape Hurts Foundation. At RHF, we educate Ugandans about sexual violence, advocate for survivors, care for children conceived through rape, and offer refuge and employment to women in need.



Together with SELF, we've taken our work even further. SELF's solar-powered water station means women and girls do not need to travel far for such a basic necessity. No longer do we have to weigh water against safety. We can have both.

For anywhere we do need to go after nightfall, the new solar streetlights provide a well-lit route, which helps prevent more tragic incidents like my own. These lights also offer a place for children to gather and study at night—and as we all know, when you educate a girl, there's nothing she can't do.

Every single woman and every single child holds within them the potential to change the world. They just need a chance. Access to energy helps give them that.

The Rape Hurts Foundation began in trauma. Today, together with SELF and your support, we transform lives.

- Hellen

VACCINES FOR ALL

In no small way, 2021 underscored the importance of vaccines for public health. It also demonstrated the deep inequities that exist in global vaccine access.

Despite international pushes, widespread distribution of vaccines remains a global challenge. And successful delivery to countries in need is only half the battle. Vaccines still need to be stored in a way that maintains their efficacy—meaning, for communities not connected to the grid, solar-powered vaccine refrigeration equipment often remains the only viable option.

To improve this process, the World Health Organization (WHO) commissioned SELF to complete a report on solar direct-drive (i.e., battery-free) vaccine refrigeration in Haiti. The report identified equipment failures that were able to be remedied with help from the manufacturer and with funds leftover from an earlier CDC project. The report also offered recommendations to improve the monitoring process, an important component for expanded vaccination programs moving forward.

Pleased with this work, WHO engaged SELF to do an additional multi-country report on refrigerator status globally and the preparedness to receive COVID-19 vaccines.



BRIGHTER FUTURES

SELF began planning for a project electrifying homes along the US-Mexico border, where the typical household income is \$17,000 per year, more than 10% of which goes to electricity. In partnership with Sempra Foundation, the project seeks to reduce the financial burden of energy on these families, while simultaneously fighting climate change.

Work is also underway in Southern California, again with support from Sempra, to address energy poverty among Indigenous communities through the ongoing Tribal Digital Village initiative. In 2021, SELF planned training workshops to equip local technicians and leaders with knowledge around their hybrid solar-generator-battery systems. In line with our values of self-help, self-determination, and self-reliance, this project seeks to build local capacity to enact lasting change.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

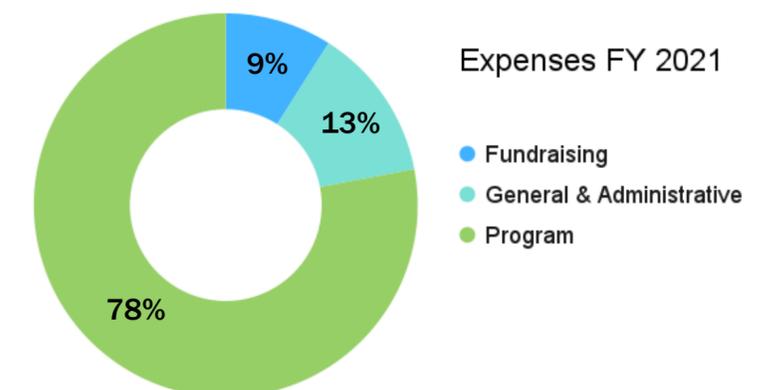
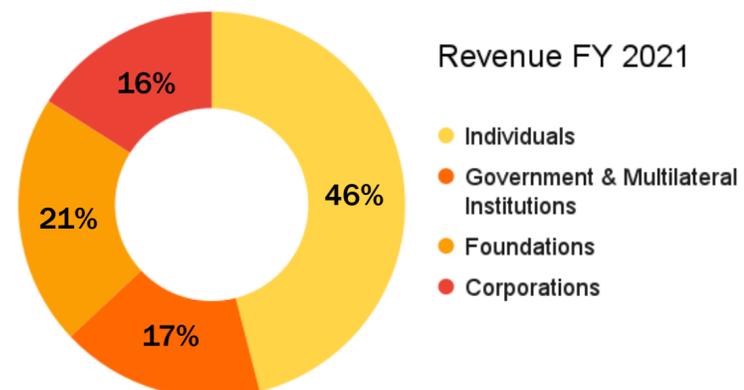
SELF had a very good year financially. Not only did long term donors continue their support for our work, but new donors have also stepped forward to help advance our mission.

Revenue increased by more than 60% with new donors like Sempra Foundation supporting SELF's work in the United States. We also saw support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation with major efforts undertaken in Benin. Even with the increased project activity, overall expenses dropped as we reduced infrastructure costs by moving to a virtual office. Thanks to our supporters, we were able to build on our net assets, and we move into 2022 with resources to do even more to address global energy poverty.

The financial results depicted on this page are derived from the SELF audited December 31, 2021 consolidated financial statements, which received an unqualified opinion. SELF's complete, audited financial statements can be found on our website: www.self.org.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2021 (With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2020)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021 Total	2020 Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Grants and donations	\$ 1,408,313	\$ 1,356,292	\$ 2,764,605	\$ 1,980,833
Crypto assets donations	-	394,703	394,703	-
In-kind revenue	94,021	-	94,021	5,297
Interest and other income	248	-	248	8,170
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of time restrictions	200,000	(200,000)	-	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	923,422	(923,422)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	2,626,004	627,573	3,253,577	1,994,300
EXPENSES				
Program services	1,620,069	-	1,620,069	1,935,302
Management and general	259,529	-	259,529	258,822
Fundraising	186,535	-	186,535	188,992
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,066,133	-	2,066,133	2,383,116
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS FROM OPERATIONS	559,871	627,573	1,187,444	(388,816)
Forgiveness of note payable – PPP	130,200	-	130,200	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	690,071	627,573	1,317,644	(388,816)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	(273,901)	315,763	41,862	430,678
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 416,170	\$ 943,336	\$ 1,359,506	\$ 41,862



COUNTRIES OF IMPACT



Benin
Bhutan
Brazil
Burundi
China

Colombia
Ghana
Haiti
India
Indonesia

Kenya
Lesotho
Navajo Nation
Nepal
Nigeria

Rwanda
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Tanzania

Uganda
United States
Vietnam
Zimbabwe

ORGANIZATION

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Lisa Esler | Finance Director

Karen Allen | Development Director

Jeff Lahl | Project Director

Jeff Korcan | Project Manager

Jean-Baptiste Certain | Project Manager

Isabel Light | Development Associate





SELF

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