



SELF

SOLAR ELECTRIC LIGHT FUND

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



COUNTRIES OF IMPACT

- Benin
- Bhutan
- Brazil
- Burundi
- China
- Colombia
- Ghana
- Haiti
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Navajo Nation
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Puerto Rico
- Rwanda
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- United States
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2022, I'm amazed by the power of our global community. This year was not without its challenges: war, famine, and climate chaos to name a few. But it also brought cooperation, restoration, and healing.

I'm equally amazed by the power of the human spirit. Given access to a few basic resources, people will build a better life for themselves and for their families, with ripple effects throughout their communities.

Our work in 2022 focused on four core themes: health, opportunity, equality, and innovation. In the following pages, you'll read how solar energy is enabling each of these to take root. From the US to West Africa, the impacts of solar are growing day by day, changing lives and protecting this planet we call home.

With climate change at our front door, we can no longer afford to wait. Nor do we need to. We already have the tools on hand to end poverty and create a better future for our children and grandchildren. And thanks to your support, we're doing just that.



Sincerely,
Robert A. Freling

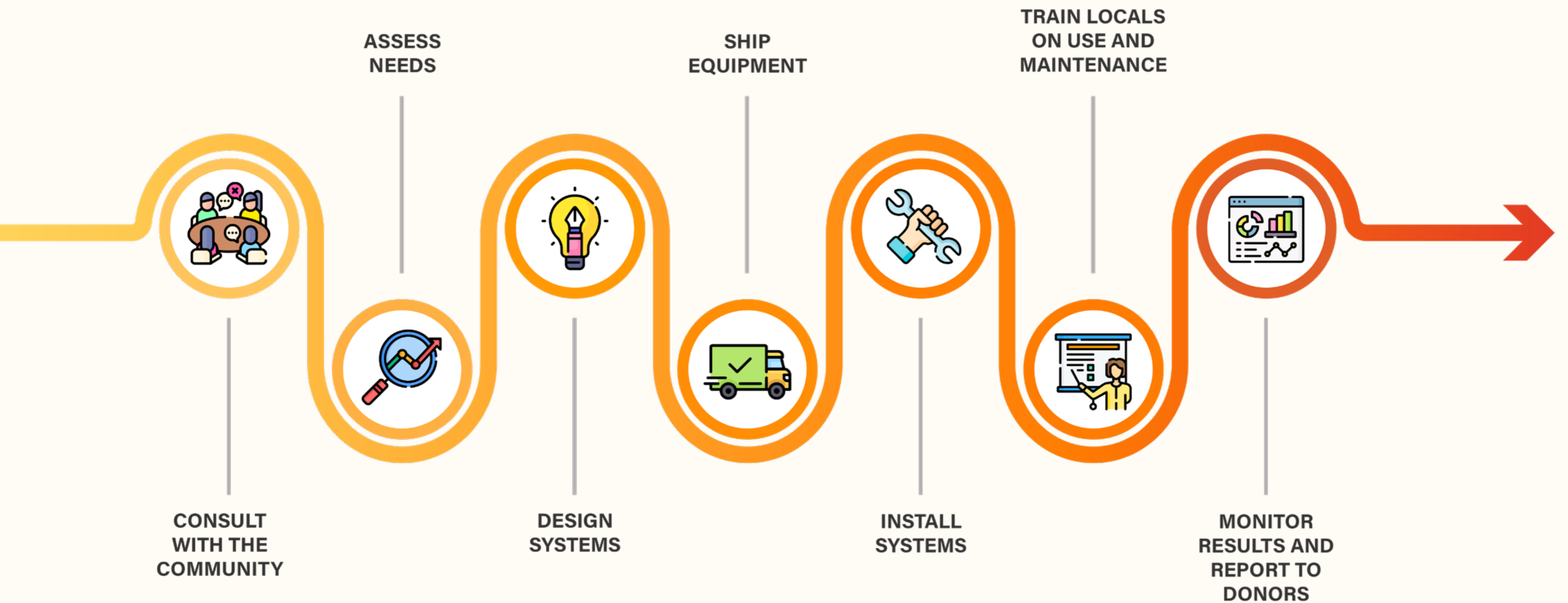




IN 2022, SELF:

- Completed a **water and vaccine access** initiative serving 40,000 people in Benin
- Launched a solar cooking program to improve **women's access to income** in Uganda
- Conducted **renewable energy trainings** for Native American communities in California
- Installed **solar home systems** for low-income families along the US-Mexico border
- Reported on **COVID-19 vaccine storage issues** for the World Health Organization

PROJECT PIPELINE





HEALTH

Without access to electricity, living a healthy life is extremely difficult. Survival becomes a full-time job, and pursuing higher goals is nearly impossible. In 2022, SELF completed a major initiative in Benin, West Africa to improve access to two vital resources: clean water and vaccines.

Waterborne illness is a leading cause of death in Benin, and energy poverty is a driving factor. Without electricity, communities in the Kalalé District were unable to pump, purify, and distribute water—forcing people to rely on unsanitary and far-off sources. For the first component of this project, SELF installed 24 solar-powered water pumps throughout the district. These systems provide an ample, reliable, and convenient source of water for 40,000 people.

The second component of this project focused on vaccine access. Only 58% of children in Benin are considered fully immunized. This low immunization rate is due in large part to lack of proper cold storage. Vaccines require low, stable temperatures to maintain their potency—something that isn't possible without electricity. SELF installed five solar-powered vaccine refrigerators at clinics throughout the district. These clinics also received solar street lighting to improve accessibility.

Altogether, this initiative allows the people of the Kalalé District to live healthier lives, now and for years to come. This project was funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. foreign assistance agency, and further supported by our generous donors.



OPPORTUNITY

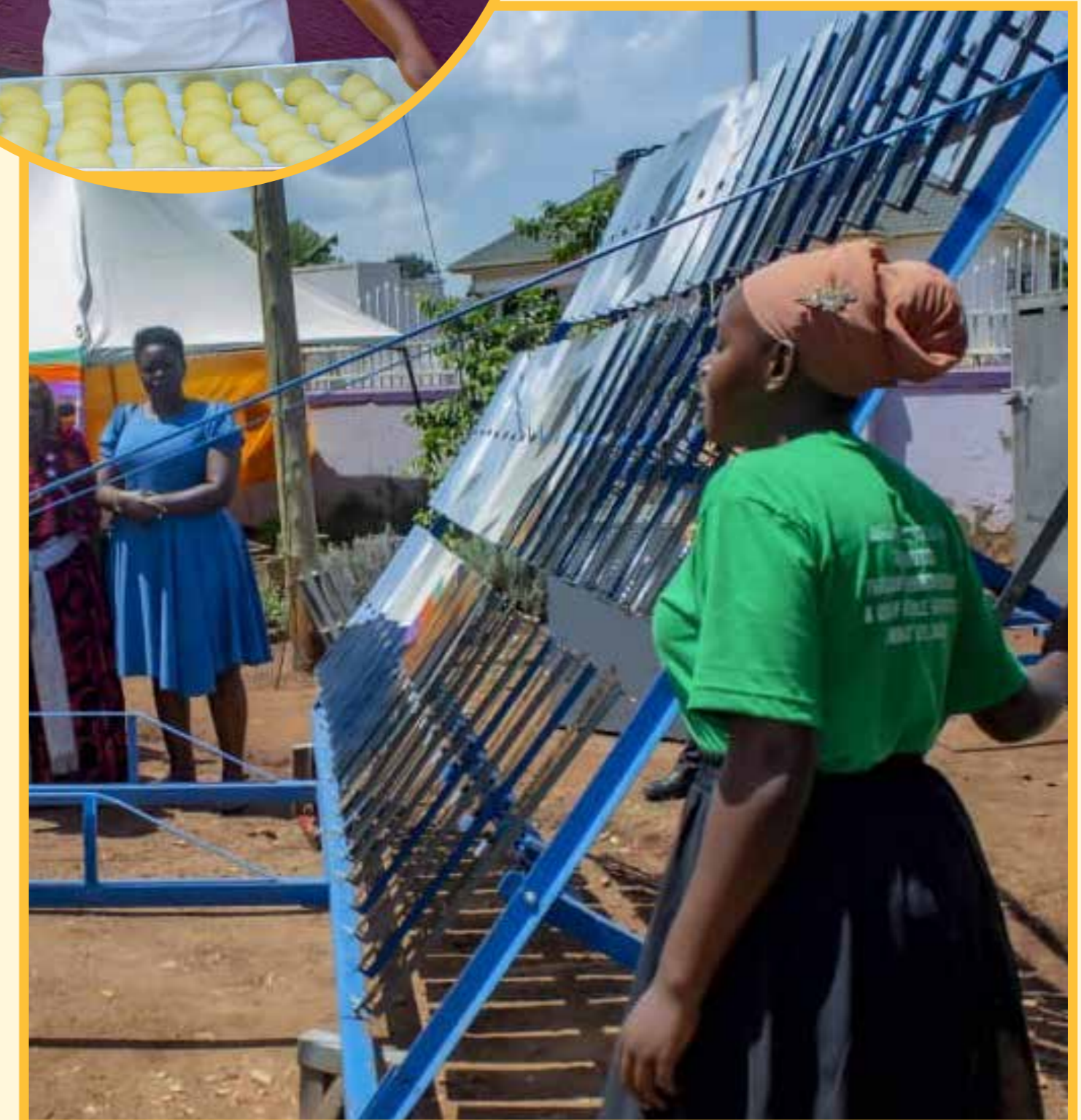
In 2022, SELF launched a new initiative aimed at improving economic opportunity for women through solar cooking and skills building.

SELF procured five commercial-scale solar ovens, capable of baking, roasting, dehydrating, and cooking large quantities of food. The ovens were delivered to the Rape Hurts Foundation (RHF) site in Uganda. RHF, a longtime SELF partner, works to reduce sexual violence and provide refuge to those affected by it.

In the past, collaborations between SELF and RHF have focused on creating safer public spaces for women and supporting sexual assault survivors on their path to recovery. The partnership has now expanded, with work in 2022 focused on creating new opportunities for women to earn income.

Through the solar cooking program, participants will learn how to solar-cook a variety of foods to sell at their local markets. Trainings will also cover entrepreneurship and business skills, so that participants have everything they need to launch their own micro-enterprises and build wealth, many for the first time in their lives.

When women can access income, the whole community benefits. Mothers can send their children to school, care for their families, and employ others. These women are also advancing food security locally by cooking meals and even dehydrating produce for year-round consumption. And thanks to the power of the sun, these ovens operate free of pollution and carbon emissions.



EQUALITY

Energy poverty keeps people poor and reinforces inequality. Energy access unravels that dynamic. When a person has access to energy, they can meet their needs, pursue new opportunities, and forge a better future. In 2022, SELF pursued two US-based projects that improve access to energy among marginalized groups.

The first project equipped Native American communities with resources and skills surrounding renewable energy. As part of the Tribal Digital Village Initiative, SELF held a series of trainings for Native technicians that covered the applied use of renewable systems, including solar and wind, as well as advocacy components to support the expansion of these systems. Equipped with this knowledge, these technicians can now steward renewable energy expansion in their communities—communities that have historically suffered higher rates of energy poverty.

SELF also worked to bring energy to low-income families in Texas. This work targets unincorporated, underserved neighborhoods along the US-Mexico border, known as “Colonias.” SELF equipped four households with solar electric systems and planned an additional ten installations. These systems reduce the financial strain of household energy use, and allow families to put that money toward other needs, such as healthcare and education.

These projects were generously supported by SELF’s partners, Sempra and Sempra Foundation.



INNOVATION

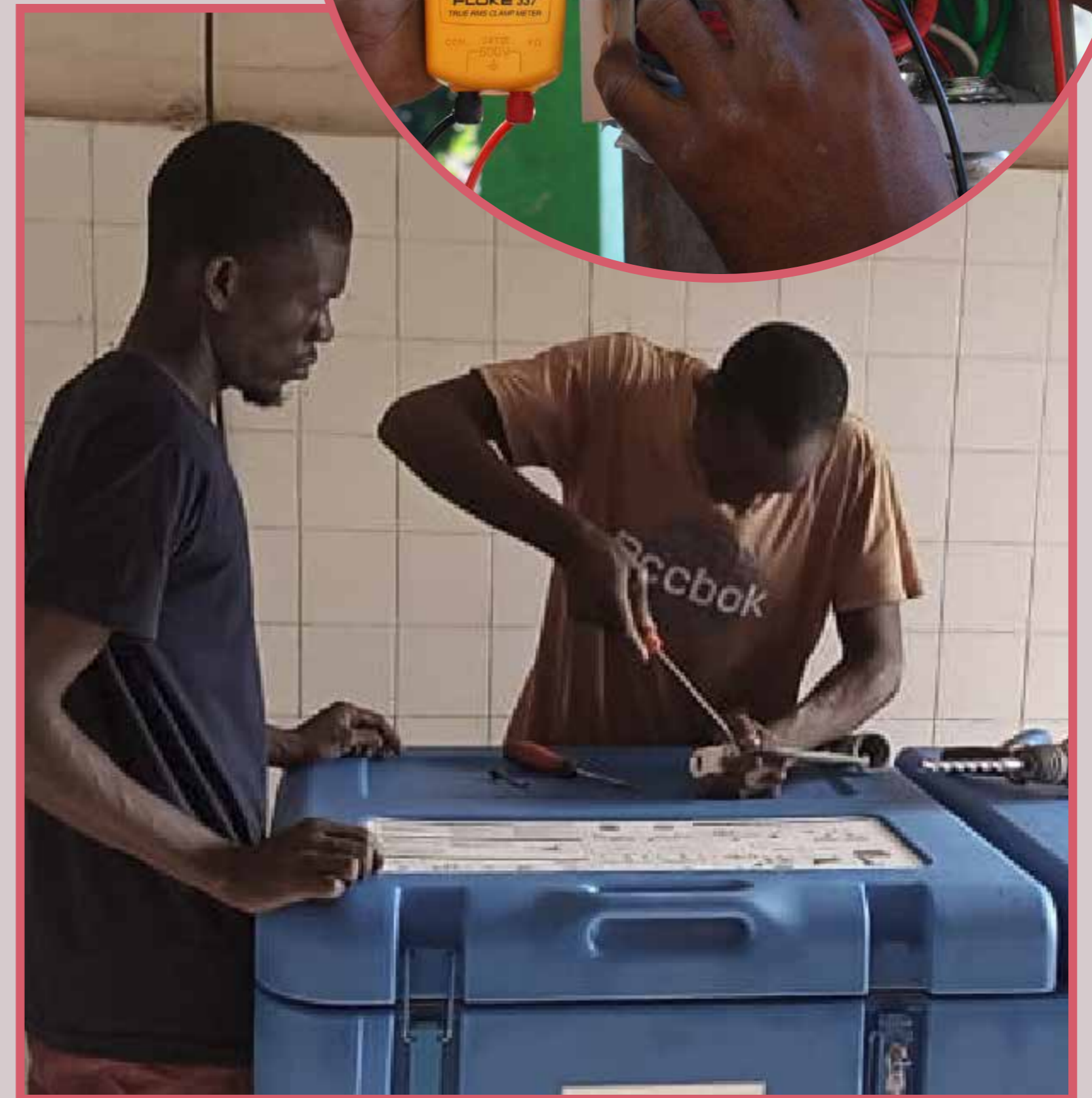
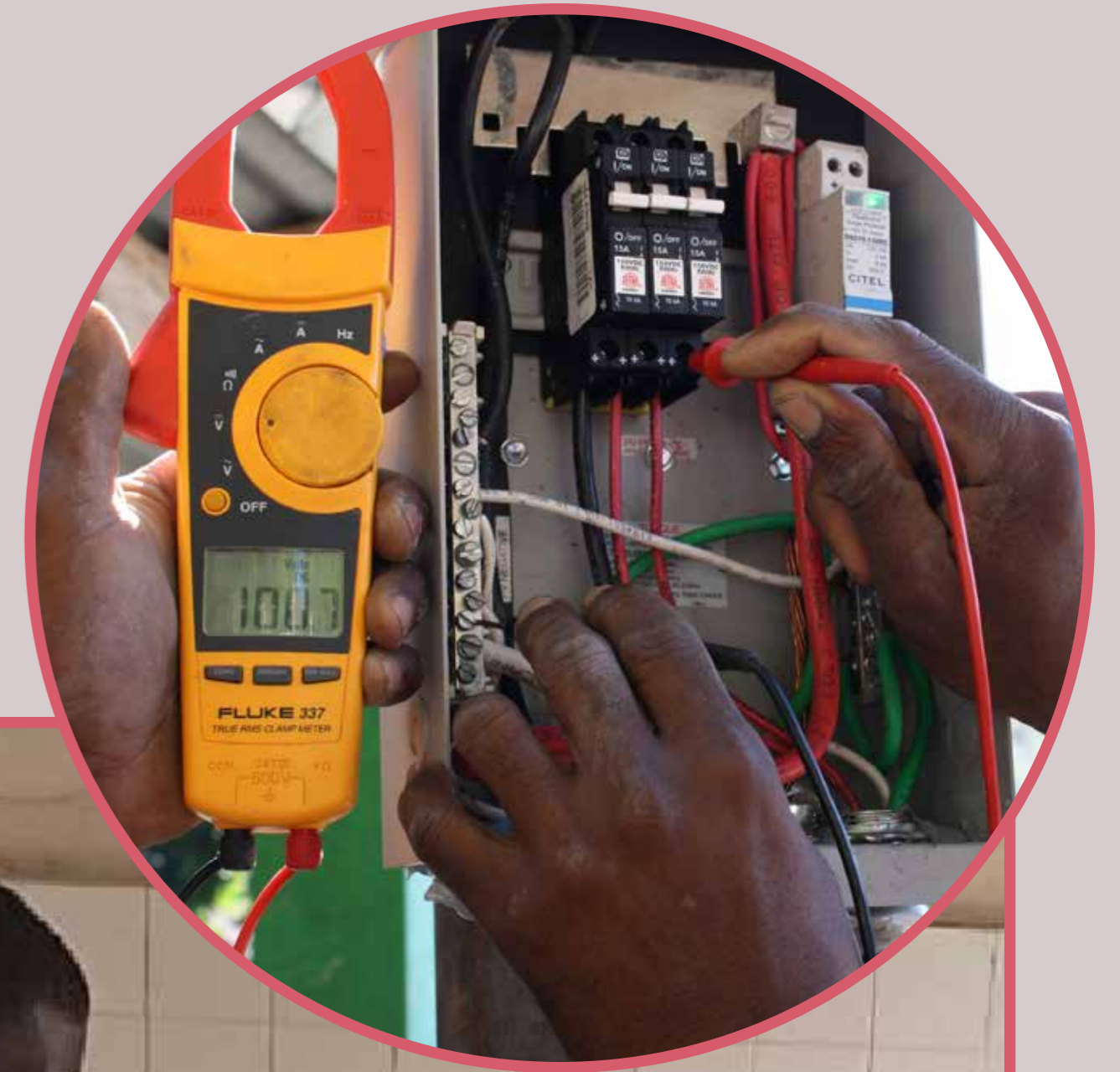
Innovation is essential to global progress, but only when it's made available to all. This is true for electricity, as well as everything that runs on it. When it comes to vaccine storage technology, equal access is a matter of life or death.

Without refrigeration, vaccines lose their efficacy before they can reach patients. This is the tragic reality in many places today. Non-existent or inadequate cold storage keeps immunization rates low and patients sick.

To better understand countries' capacity to receive COVID-19 vaccines, the World Health Organization (WHO) commissioned SELF to conduct a report on the status of vaccine storage in Bangladesh, Chad, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, and Tajikistan.

The findings identified several technological and programmatic challenges with vaccine initiatives. SELF provided recommendations to remedy these issues and improve vaccine storage, and by extension, vaccine access around the world.

Upon completion of the report, the WHO invited SELF into an ongoing consulting partnership. SELF looks forward to continuing this relationship until all people have access to these lifesaving innovations.



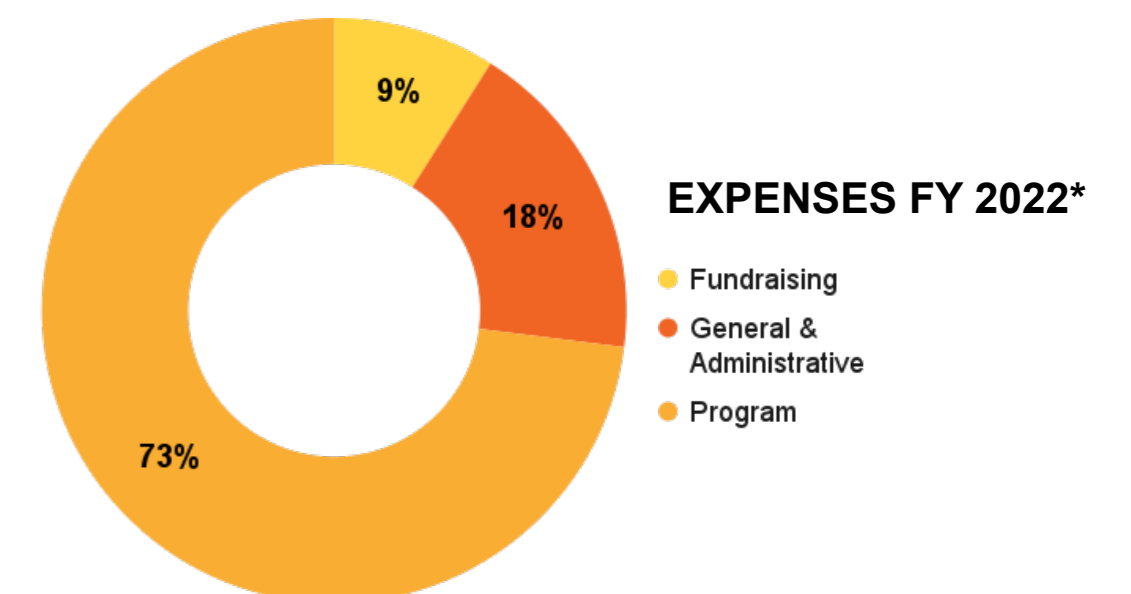
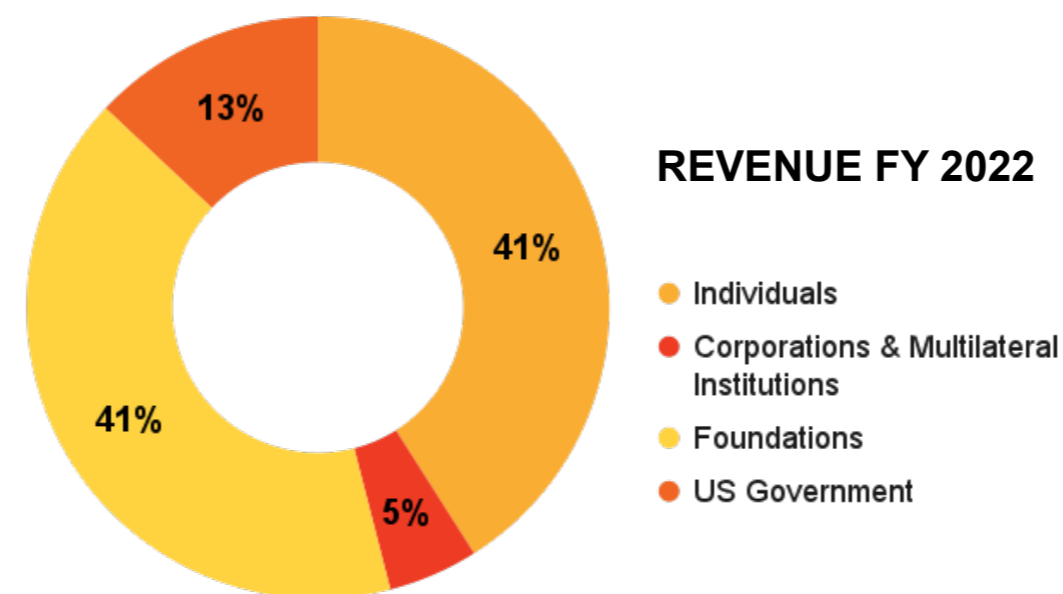
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2022, SELF received support from new and long-term donors, allowing us to continue harnessing solar power to change lives around the world. Project-focused grants enabled us to venture into new areas such as solar cooking. We continue to develop new relationships and mechanisms to creatively address climate change and energy poverty with solar-powered innovations.

The financial results depicted in this report are derived from the SELF audited December 31, 2022 consolidated financial statements. The 2022 statements were unqualified except for the crypto assets held at year end. The auditors did not provide an opinion on these crypto assets due to the difficulties in verifying their value. SELF's complete, audited financial statements can be found on our website at www.self.org.

SOLAR ELECTRIC LIGHT FUND
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2022
 (With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2021)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2022 Total	2021 Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Grants and donations	\$ 816,693	\$ 326,915	\$ 1,143,608	\$ 2,764,605
Digital assets donations	-	99,900	99,900	394,703
In-kind revenue	3,384	-	3,384	94,021
Interest and other income	1,847	-	1,847	248
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of time restrictions	10,445	(10,445)	-	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	986,833	(986,833)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	1,819,202	(570,463)	1,248,739	3,253,577
EXPENSES				
Program services	974,981	-	974,981	1,620,069
Management and general	636,425	-	636,425	259,529
Fundraising	127,180	-	127,180	186,535
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,738,586	-	1,738,586	2,066,133
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS FROM OPERATIONS				
	80,616	(570,463)	(489,847)	1,187,444
Forgiveness of note payable – PPP	-	-	-	130,200
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	80,616	(570,463)	(489,847)	1,317,644
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	416,170	943,336	1,359,506	41,862
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 496,786	\$ 372,873	\$ 869,659	\$ 1,359,506



*These numbers are net of the loss on crypto assets received in 2021.

ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert A. Freling | Executive Director, Solar Electric Light Fund

Steven L. Swig, Chair | Co-founder, Presidio Graduate School

Mary Green Swig | Co-manager, Freedom to Prosper

Jonathan W. Postal | Founder & CEO, Nikola Power

STAFF

Robert A. Freling | Executive Director

Lisa Esler | Finance Director

Jeff Lahl | Project Director

Jeff Korcan | Project Manager

Jean-Baptiste Certain | Project Manager

Georgia Lawson | Communications Manager

Anders Jacobson | Administrative Assistant





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