

Together we will break the cycle of poverty.

# EMPOWER MALI

Partnering for  
Sustainable Growth



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**Partnering for Sustainable  
Development and Building  
a Brighter Future For Our  
Young Minds in Mali**

# Message from James Arrington, Board Chair

As we close another remarkable year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who has supported Empower Mali's mission. Your unwavering commitment has allowed us to make a meaningful impact in the lives of countless individuals across Mali. Together, we have transformed challenges into opportunities, creating lasting change in communities that need it most. This year, through collaboration with our dedicated partners, we have successfully implemented numerous projects aimed at improving education, health, and access to clean water:

## Education Initiatives

- Dambe Kalanso School Expansion (Oueléssébougou): Added three new classrooms with support from JP Peace Love and Happiness Foundation.
- Dambe Kalanso School Additional Classrooms (Oueléssébougou): Added six additional classrooms with funding from Maxfield Foundation.
- Dambe Kalanso Administration Building (Oueléssébougou): Laid foundation for administrative offices with support from Stirling Foundation, Maxfield Foundation, and Mellor Foundation.
- Empower Mali School Completion (Labata): Completed our three-classroom middle school, equipped with desks and sanitation facilities, with funding from B.H. Roberts Foundation.
- Laptops for Top Students: Donated 10 laptops to outstanding students, funded by National Speakers Association Foundation.
- Notebooks for Orphaned Students (Tombouctou): Provided 5,000 notebooks to orphaned children, supported by David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation.
- Teacher Housing (Oueléssébougou): Built housing for teachers, ensuring retention of quality educators, with funding from Building Youth Around the World.

## Clean Water Projects

- Solar-Powered Water System (Kapelegue): Installed a sustainable water system with support from The Giving Cookie (Katie Pearce) and Namaste Solar Foundation.
- Solar-Powered Water Systems (Misseni & Kafigueba): Installed water systems serving thousands, funded by Charles Lamar Family Foundation.
- Ten Solar-Powered Water Systems (Multiple Rural Communities: Pogosso, Pakasso, Zangosso, Zanedougou, Yirimadjo, Tessalit, Zidiangolodougou, Stade Malien, Tiecourala, and Sikasso town): Partnered with Stirling Foundation to install clean water access points across Mali.
- Solar-Powered Water System (Dissan): Installed a sustainable water system with donations from Hope for a Better World Foundation and Rocky Woods Charitable Foundation.
- Solar-Powered Water System (Kokan): Brought accessible

water closer to the community, thanks to Sorenson Legacy Foundation.

- Solar-Powered Water System (Fanidama): Brought accessible water closer to the community, thanks to Gerber Construction.

## Community and Women Empowerment

- Communal Cooking Pots for Women (Oueléssébougou): Distributed 50 large cooking pots to support community events, funded by Peace Love and Happiness Foundation.

## Healthcare

- Life-Changing Surgeries for Children (Oueléssébougou and Surrounding Regions): Provided 33 children with critical surgeries through Building Youth Around the World and Clinique de Paix.

## Scholarships

- Leadership Program: Funded scholarships and leadership training opportunities for Malian students, thanks to JP Peace Love and Happiness Foundation.
- Scholarships for Malian Students at Nomen Global (USA): Sponsored Mamadou Samake and Azidane Ag to study English and further education, funded by Peace Love and Happiness Foundation and Nomen Global.

Each of these accomplishments represents the generosity and compassion of our donors, partners, and volunteers. The resilience and determination of the Malian people continue to inspire us, and it is our privilege to stand beside them, providing the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

While we celebrate these successes, we recognize that our work is far from over. There is still much to be done to build a stronger, more prosperous Mali. As we look to the future, I invite you to continue this journey with us. Your support, whether through donations, partnerships, or advocacy, remains the driving force behind our mission.

Thank you for believing in the vision of Empower Mali. Together, we are creating lasting change, one community at a time. With gratitude,



James Arrington  
Chair, Empower Mali





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# MISSION



Empower Mali believes that the citizens and communities of Mali have the right to become self-reliant.

The focus of the foundation is not to give a handout to these communities, but rather to work side by side empowering these communities to meet their own needs by sharing with them the resources and tools to get it done.

We commit our resources and efforts to affect change in the areas of:

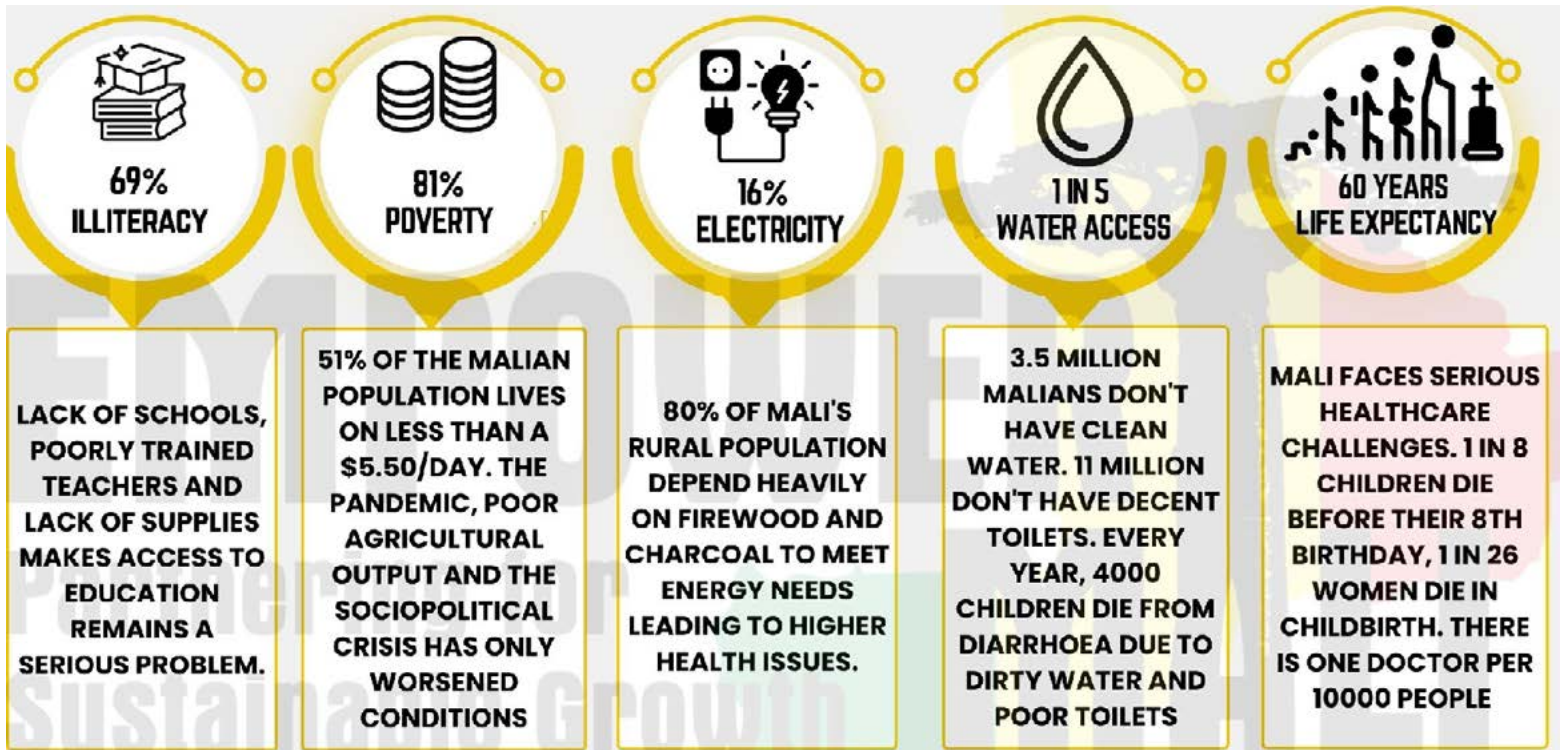
- **Education:** Empower Mali supports education in Mali by building and renovating schools, providing school supplies and materials, and funding teacher salaries. The foundation also offers scholarships to students who otherwise wouldn't have access to education.
- **Healthcare:** Empower Mali partners with local healthcare providers to improve access to healthcare services in Mali. The foundation supports the building of clinics, training of healthcare workers, and providing medical supplies and equipment.
- **Clean Water:** Empower Mali helps to provide clean water to communities by building wells, water pumps, and water treatment systems. The foundation also educates communities about proper water management and sanitation practices.
- **Clean Energy:** Empower Mali supports the use of clean energy in Mali by building solar-powered systems for homes, schools, and clinics. The foundation also provides training on the maintenance and repair of these systems.

In all these domains, Empower Mali works closely with community leaders and citizens to ensure that projects are sustainable and can continue even after Empower Mali leaves the village. The foundation focuses on empowering communities to take charge of their own development and to create a better future for themselves and their children.





# MALI BY THE NUMBERS



Empower Mali is fighting against illiteracy, poverty and limited access to basic amenities. We emphasize working closely with the citizens in the areas we serve. We believe when equipped with the correct tools and resources, Malians will be empowered to help themselves and their families escape the throes of poverty.

## OUR STRATEGIES TO EMPOWER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



### 1. LOCAL INITIATIVE

As part of our partnerships, we expect the Malian communities where we work to initiate the demand for the project and also to contribute to the project whether it is 20% of the cost of the project and/or land or labor.

### 2. EMPOWERMENT

We utilize the existing capacities and resources of the villages.

### 3. PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration with the government and community stakeholders ensures that our projects are adequately staffed and receive long-term sustained support.

By getting the communities involved in both the needs assessment and financial portion, the project becomes self sustainable. The villagers are more likely to maintain the project because of their own investment and role in bringing the project to their community.





# OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH MALIANS SINCE 2013



- 18 schools serving 150+ children each year built in the rural villages of Ferekoroba, Dongorona, Falla II, Katele, Dovong, Fanterela, Marako, Koumantou Banko, Moro-Moro, Zekoun, Ouelessebouyou, Karagouan, Siemen, Pogosso, Badalabougou Pre-School, Sibiribougou, Kankrougou and Labata
- In progress construction of Dambe Kalanso Educational Institution of Oueléssébougou: 21 classrooms completed
- 9 blocks of three 2-room Teacher housing for teachers and directors in the villages of Ferekoroba, Dovong, Fanterela, Dongorona, Siemen, Karagouan, Moro-Moro, Zekoun and Ouelessebouyou.
- As part of the food security initiative, six tractors to farmer co-ops in the villages of Beneko, Bougouni town, San town, Garalo, Sikasso town and N'Tentou
- Two Electricity generating playgrounds with battery packs and 40 solar lanterns in the villages of Fanterela and Ferekoroba;
- 200 Luci Lights and soccer balls distributed to the villages of Marako, Dongorona, Beneko, Kolena and Dovong
- 500 Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits donated and distributed.
- 45 solar water pumps serving tens of thousands installed in the communities of N'Tentou, Ouelessebouyou, Siblieni, Baguineda, Bougouni N'Godonina, Quartier Tripano, Dioila, Sanankoro Djitoumou, Bougouni N'Dogonina, Kabalcoro Baguineda, Siblieni, Kontoumoun, Madina, Hameau de Moro-Moro, Sangarebouyou Guereboukin, Bandjougbouyou Niena, Quartier Mali, Badalabougou, Oueléssébougou School, Dioila II, Oueléssébougou City Soccer Field, Samanko Kolondieba, Guaranko, Manabougou, Koulouba Siblieni, Tiemba, Dogotou Lecko, Bomboty, Bogoda Kassaro, Zangosso, Kokan, Pogosso, Kapelegue, Misseni, Kafigueba, Pogosso, Pakasso, Zangosso, Zapedougou, Yirimadjo, Tessalit, Zidiangolodougou, Stade Malien, Sikasso town, Tiecourala, Dissan.
- Textbooks in all subjects for six schools: BYAW Academy of Ferekoroba, Micah Shea Watkins Academy of Dongorona, Coates Academy of Falla II, Peace Love Happiness Academy of Moro-Moro, Coates Academy of Siemen and BYAW Academy of Karagouan. Each school serves 150 students each year.
- 100 Tablets donated in 16 impoverished middle schools in Kalabancoro, Bamako.
- Chromebooks for the top ten achievers of the 9th grade exams (DEF) in Mali.
- 22 four-year high school scholarships to the Wasatch Academy High School, Mt. Pleasant, Utah
- 1 three-year university scholarship to an Agricultural School at Fundacion Paraguay in Paraguay
- 8 English language Scholarships for Malian students to study English at Nomen Global in Provo, Utah
- A Conference Center in Oueléssébougou
- A water purification system for the village of Dongorona
- Funding for a Chicken Egg farm which has created jobs and a source of fresh food.
- A Basketball Court in KalabanCoura



# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

**Addition of 3 classrooms to the Dambe Kalanso school in Ouelessebougou:** Last year, the **JP Peace Love and Happiness Foundation** funded 9 classrooms of our Dambe Kalanso school projected. A generous donation allowed us to add 3 more classrooms. The establishment of this unique school building in the community of Ouelessebougou is specifically tailored to create an environment that is conducive to molding the future leaders of Mali. At this school, we will institute a Mali's national curriculum requisites s a curriculum that not only imbues our students with the academic knowledge they need, but also the character required to lead and make an impact in their society.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

**Began construction on 6 new Classrooms for Dambe Kalanso, Oueléssébougou:** Thanks to a generous donation from the **Maxfield Foundation**, we are expanding Dambe Kalanso school with six new classrooms. This school is designed to nurture the future leaders of Mali by providing an environment that fosters both academic excellence and strong character. By integrating Mali's national curriculum with values-based education, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and leadership qualities needed to make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

**Supporting Women with Communal Cooking Resources:** In celebration of Women's Day and thanks to our partner **Peace Love and Happiness Foundation**, we purchased and distributed 50 large communal cooking pots and serving spoons to Ouelessebougou and its neighboring villages. It was uplifting to witness the joy of the women in these communities. Every day, they face challenges in preparing large meals for important village events. With these new pots, they no longer need to travel long distances to the main city to rent them—saving both time and transportation costs. This initiative was truly meaningful and will have a lasting impact on each community.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

## Middle School Completed in Labata:

We are proud to announce the completion of our newest school in the village of Labata, located in the Commune of Gnouman Makan. For years, Labata's children have studied in extremely difficult conditions, but thanks to the generous support of the **B.H. Roberts Foundation**, we have brought lasting change to this community. The new school features three fully equipped classrooms, a director's office, a storehouse, and six toilets (three for boys and three for girls), providing a safe and supportive learning environment for generations to come.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

**Laptops for Top Students:** To reward excellence and inspire students to reach new heights, Empower Mali donated 10 laptops to the top-performing 9th-grade students in Mali. These laptops, funded by the generous support of the **National Speakers Association Foundation**, were awarded alongside a \$200 cash gift to recognize the students' hard work and their families' dedication to education. By celebrating their success on the DEF exam (Diplôme d'Études Fondamentales), we aim to motivate and empower the next generation of leaders in Mali.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

**Empowering Future Leaders:** With the support of the **JP Peace Love and Happiness Foundation**, we are investing in the next generation of Malian leaders. This leadership program provides vocational training for women groups in Mali and also scholarships for students to study in the U.S., training opportunities, and initiatives designed to foster personal and professional growth. By equipping young minds with the skills and education they need, we are helping to shape the future leaders of Mali.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

## Teacher Housing in Ouelessebougou:

Attracting qualified teachers to rural Mali can be challenging, but with the support of **Building Youth Around the World (BYAW)**, we've made significant strides.

Thanks to BYAW's generous donation, we were able to build teacher housing for the Karl and Erika Michel Academy in Oueléssébougou. This project provides multiple teacher families with comfortable homes, each featuring two bedrooms and a living room, helping to ensure a stable and dedicated teaching staff in the community.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

**Notebooks for Tombouctou:** With literacy rates as low as 31% in Mali, orphans—especially in the insecure northern regions—face even greater challenges in accessing education. In partnership with the local organization ASSOS (Association for the Support of Orphans in the Sahel), Empower Mali provided 5,000 notebooks to orphaned students in the urban municipality of Tombouctou. This initiative, made possible through the generous support of the **David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation**, helps ensure that these children have the resources they need to continue their education and build a brighter future.





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



**CLEAN WATER**  
2 completed systems  
in Misseni and Kafigueba



**CLEAN WATER**  
Completed a water  
system in Dissan



HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD



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**MALI**



# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



## CLEAN WATER

Completed a water system in Kapelegue

THE GIVING COOKIE

namaste SOLAR



## CLEAN WATER

Completed a water system in Kokan



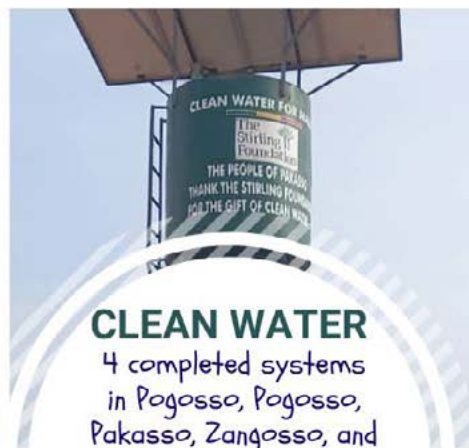
SORENSON LEGACY FOUNDATION



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**MALI**



# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS





# 2023 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS





# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION YEAR ENDING 2023

The Foundation's income for FY2023 was \$1,215,723 not including In-kind donations.  
The Foundation's expenses stood at \$1,152,930.



**REVENUE**  
\$1,215,723

- FOUNDATION GRANTS
- CORPORATE DONATIONS
- INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS



**EXPENSES**  
\$1,152,930

- PROGRAM EXPENSES
- FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
- MANAGEMENT EXPENSES





# OUR PARTNERS & DONORS

In 2023, EM partnered with many individuals, companies, and non-profits to meet the growing challenges that people in rural Mali are facing. We would not exist without the dedicated commitment of our partners. We thank all the individuals, companies and partners that have made our projects a success! We are grateful for your generosity and your commitment to help Malians create sustainable growth opportunities in Mali.



## DONORS (\$400,000)

STIRLING FOUNDATION

## DONORS (\$250,000 - \$300,000)

PEACE, LOVE AND HAPPINESS FOUNDATION

MAXFIELD FOUNDATION

## DONORS (\$50,000 - \$100,000)

BUILDING YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD

## DONORS (\$30,000 - \$49,999)

CHARLES LAMAR FAMILY FOUNDATION

SORENSEN LEGACY FOUNDATION

GERBER CONSTRUCTION

## DONORS (\$25,000)

WATKINS FAMILY

MELLOR FAMILY FOUNDATION

## DONORS (\$15,000)

KATIE PEARCE/THE GIVING COOKIE

HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD

ROCKY WOODS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

## DONORS (\$7,500)

WILLIAMSEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

## DONORS (\$5,000)

DAVID KELBY JOHNSON

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

MINER FOUNDATION

ANDRUS FAMILY

## DONORS (\$1,000)

JOHN ALLRED

## DONORS (\$10 - \$999)

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# Thank You



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and the profound impact it has had on the lives of numerous individuals. The achievements made possible thanks to your kindness are truly remarkable, and we are excited about the potential to fulfill the needs of many more malians in the coming year of 2023.

Your donations have the power to make additional projects a reality. Do not underestimate the influence of one individual. We look forward to your continued support as we move forward into the future.

