

Maasai Girls Rescue Center

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Karatu District, Tanzania

+255 785 480 050

info@maasairescue.org

www.MaasaiRescue.org



LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Our girls' well-being is the best measurement of strides made by Maasai Girls Rescue Center over the course of a year.

At the end of 2020, we were bursting at the seams of our facility in Longido, caring for 58 girls. A severe storm had wiped out the toilets and plumbing, so there were no bathrooms or warm water, just outhouses. Power outages were intermittent. The land did not support our sustainable food projects. Security was lax. The landlord wasn't helpful. It was time to go!

By the end of 2021, the transformation in the girls' lives was almost unbelievable.

They live now in a rented hotel near Karatu, with warm showers, a kitchen and comfortable beds. Their daily diet includes milk, protein, vegetables and fruit, all sourced from our own land and livestock less than a mile away. The girls walk to local schools and get tutoring. Our new community has embraced us. We had our first annual Community Thanks celebration in December.

As amazing as this all is, we're only a quarter of the way to achieving our dream: creating an ecoVillage to nurture and develop the girls to become independent women and to make the ecoVillage both self-sustaining and integral to the local economy.

Getting there will take a substantial financial infusion.

We are seeking support from individuals, foundations and other entities that share our values.

The need is pressing. In a year our lease on the temporary hotel is up. The girls will need shelter in five small houses we plan to build on the permanent 15-acre site. Also planned for 2022 is building a kitchen and dining hall and a vocational center to teach the girls skills to earn a living.

We are grateful to our donors, staff, volunteers and community members for the support that's gotten us this far. In this report you'll read about contributions and achievements.

But we are not even close to done.

Please continue to spread the word about MGRC so more people will join the effort.

The lives of the girls depend upon it.

Rick Morro

RICK MORRO

Maasai Girls Rescue Center, Founder

ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

Transforming the lives of the most vulnerable Maasai girls in Tanzania.

OUR VISION

Breaking the cycle of poverty and oppression by providing disadvantaged Maasai girls with a pathway to self-sufficiency and sustainability for themselves and the community.



OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

- Teach the girls ways to become self-sufficient in their personal and work lives.
- Educate and counsel the girls.
- EcoFarm: produce nourishing food using methods that protect and regenerate the land.
- Develop an ecoLodge for tourists to generate revenue to support our mission.
- Exchange skills, resources and economic opportunities with the local community.
- Elevate the community's prosperity through "impact tourism."

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE MOVE

Our dream to build an ecoVillage for Maasai Girls Rescue Center got a jump start in January 2021, when increasingly challenging conditions at our Longido facility propelled our move to Karatu. More than 50 girls, 14 adults, 6 cows, 70 mattresses and 30 bunkbeds travelled rutted roads and steep mountain passes to temporary quarters less than a mile away from our permanent 15-acre site.



THE ECOFARM

After settling into a rented hotel and getting the girls enrolled in local schools, through the generosity of a donor, we were able to begin building the ecoFarm on the permanent site. Where there was once grassland there is now a barn for livestock, fields with vegetables and fruit trees, a hydroponic fodder system for the animals, a water tower, a boiler for pasteurizing milk and a biogas system for fuel. The girls' basic needs for food and shelter have been met, thanks to donor contributions.

YEAR IN REVIEW



THE PEOPLE

Our people sustained us. Elisante Loi Laizere and his family made the move with us to Karatu, where he serves as on-site manager for local staff. Elisante brought his cultural knowledge, an ability to navigate complex government systems and the skill of building relationships. His background in the hotel industry – managing finances, people and facilities – is invaluable.

THE COMMUNITY

The community rallied around MGRC. About 200 people attended our first annual Community Thanks celebration in December at the ecoVillage. About 70 attendees were extended family members of the girls, grateful and happy to see the children growing up in stable, nurturing surroundings.



YEAR IN REVIEW

THE GIRLS

Great progress often requires great change. And 2021 was proof of that for the girls at MGRC. They moved to a new location, enrolled in new schools and welcomed new friends. They learned to plant and harvest crops and how to care for new animals, such as rabbits. They tried new foods like eggs, chicken, pork and fresh vegetables. And they met new people: locals who reached out to help MGRC, sponsors who participated in Zoom calls and volunteers who visited from abroad.



We saw girls make great strides towards better health. For example, Sinyati came to us with legs severely bent from skeletal fluorosis. The doctors said she would need surgery, but she was so malnourished they were unable to operate. Thanks to good nutrition and care, Sinyati has gained weight and her legs are beginning to straighten on their own. The doctors are hopeful she won't need surgery after all.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Other girls worked hard to progress in school, like Momoi. She came to us at 14 years old, having never been to school and already promised in marriage. In her 3 years at MGRC she has advanced to Standard 7. She is doing exceptionally well at English, and is able to help with translation. At our community event in December, Momoi translated her friends' testimonies from Maa to Swahili in front of over 200 people.

Our girls also spent time focusing on their talents and learning vocational skills that will sustain them in the future. Sayuni discovered that she has a passion and talent for sewing. Three years ago, when she arrived at MGRC, she was 10 years old and had never been to school. She is now in Standard 5. Her grades in school are average, but her sewing skills are far above. She wants to become a seamstress. In 2022, we will be offering more formal vocational training that will help Sayuni achieve that dream.

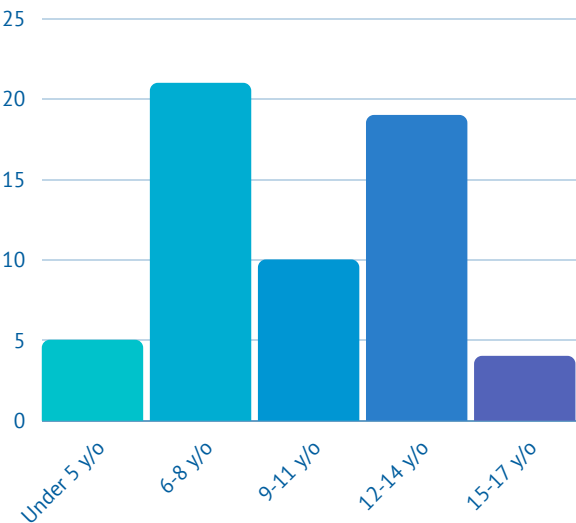


YEAR IN REVIEW

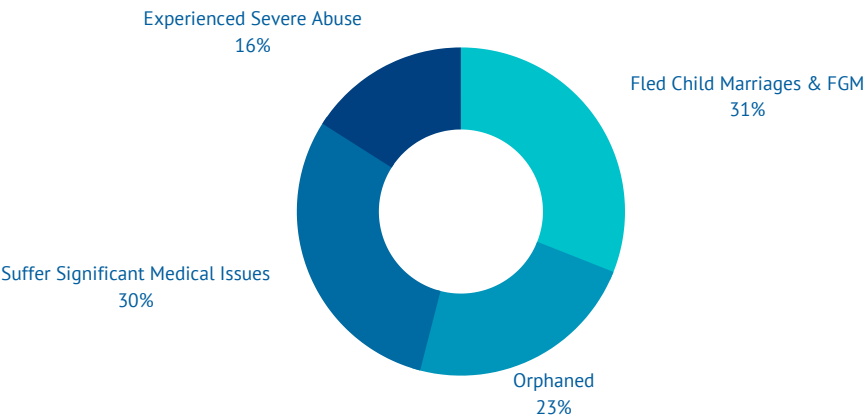
In 2021, we received 4 girls from Social Welfare. These girls came to us from a variety of challenging backgrounds, never attending school and only speaking Maa. Our first task was to teach them Swahili, so they could enroll in primary school.

At the Center, we currently have 57 rescued girls, 16 Tanzanian employees, plus the founder (volunteer) caring for the girls in Tanzania, along with 6 full time volunteers in the USA.

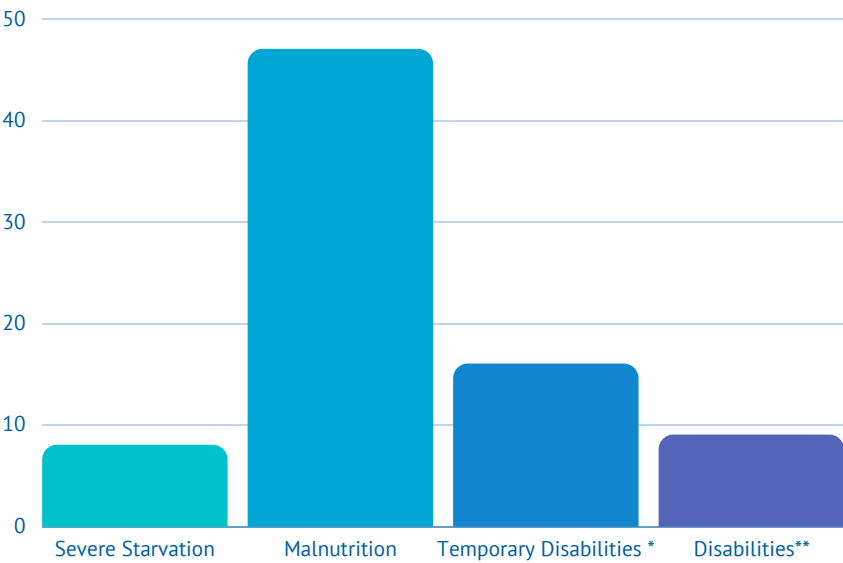
Age & Number of Girls



Background of the Girls



Health Concerns Upon Arrival



* Eczema, parasites.
** Trachoma, childhood tuberculosis, skeletal fluorosis (bent legs), club feet, severe vision problems.

WHAT'S NEXT

Our girls came from a culture where a woman's purpose is to have babies and keep house. Girls often are the last to be fed, few attend school, and most are subjected to female circumcision -- genital mutilation -- at young ages despite a law against it.

We want them to become independent and self-sufficient women. Recognizing the reality that few will go beyond secondary school to college, MGRC plans to build a multi-purpose complex to house a vocational training center, kitchen, dining hall, preschool, and administrative office.



PARKING AND ADMINISTRATION AREA VIEWS



Vocational training will teach the girls ways to earn a living, providing them options for their future. They could become seamstresses, farmers, cooks, electricians, teachers – whatever suits them! Without preparation, the girls are likely to return to their villages, resuming their roles in a patriarchal, polygamous culture.

A total of \$340,000 is needed for this vital infrastructure. A fundraising campaign is underway. Construction will begin when financing is secured. After that, we will start raising funds for the girls' permanent homes.

OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

People from around the world give their time, money and skills to MGRC. Our organization is entirely dependent on donors and volunteers.

Rick Morro, a retired international businessman from Scottsdale, Arizona, first came to Tanzania on a church mission. What he saw made such an impression that he moved there to serve the Maasai people, who started bringing their girls to him for care. **In 2012, Rick founded the Maasai Girls Rescue Center. He has continued using his own funds and working at no charge.**

Inspired by Rick's action, others joined the effort. Many come from Rick's previous work realm of factory automation and global technology companies. Others are connected through faith groups. The ripple effect extends near and far.

"Once you get involved to understand the need, it's hard not to help," said Bruce Hammond, who visited MGRC with his wife, Joyce. The Hammonds have donated ongoing services of their company, GrowthPoint in Michigan, and serve in leadership positions on the volunteer MGRC board.



Hugh Illsley

Hugh Illsley fulfilled a bucket-list dream by hiking the 24-mile Grand Canyon rim-to-rim in one day, raising more than \$37,000 for MGRC. He did it in 10 ½ hours on June 1, 2021 – a hot, sunny day in Arizona – quite an accomplishment at age 71!



December holiday campaign

MGRC's December holiday capital campaign to build a 12-acre masonry fence surpassed the \$45,000 goal. Contributions ranged from \$50 to \$20,000 from generous people worldwide wanting to make sure our girls are safe.



Threads of Hope

Thanks to volunteer seamstresses of Threads of Hope, MGRC has some of the best dressed girls in Karatu! Our housemothers take the girls' measurements and send them to the charity based at Scottsdale Bible Church in Arizona. Last summer, suitcases arrived filled with beautiful, colorful dresses, made with love.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

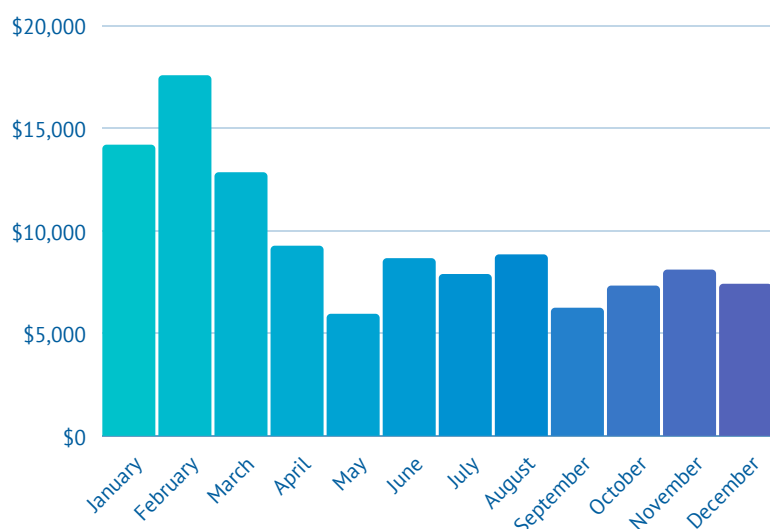
January 2021 - December 2021

Because the founder, president, board of directors, angel donors, and fundraising team members are all unpaid volunteers, our charity management expenses are zero.

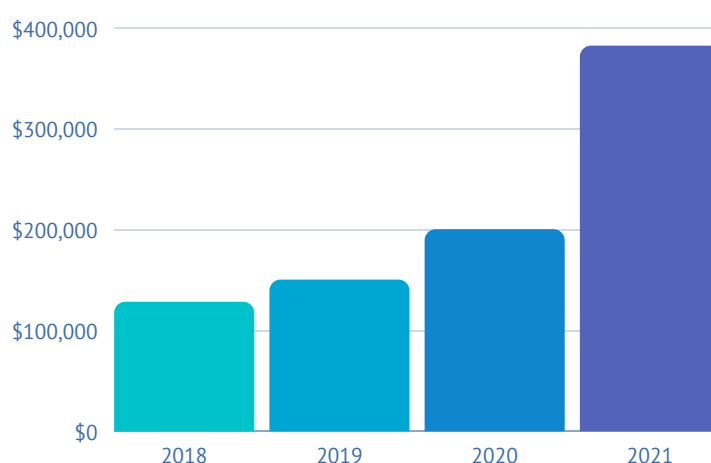
All expenses are Tanzanian expenses used for the direct care of the girls or building the ecoVillage.

The cost per girl in 2021 was under our target of \$180 per month per girl, and we are forecasting that to remain the same in 2022. We have built a business system that provides a direct line of sight of our donations to the actual expenses - this is updated daily. [Click here](#) to view these dashboards.

Expenses by Month



Annual Donations



Expenses by Expense Category



100% of our funding comes from individual donors. GrowthPoint® provides marketing services and business systems pro bona for both the USA and Tanzanian organizations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Capital Expenditures

MGRC began implementing our vision of building a permanent home for the Maasai Girls Rescue Center in Karatu Tanzania. We purchased 15 acres overlooking Rift Valley.

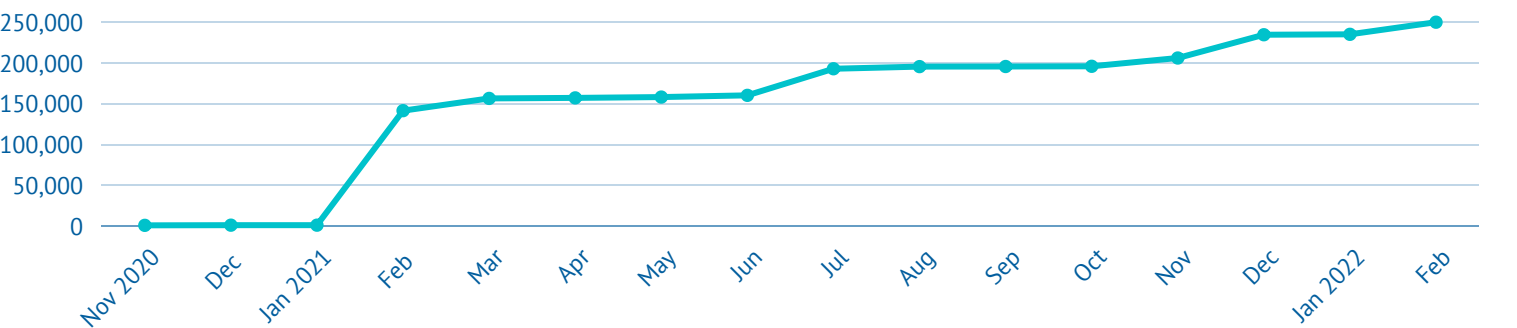
In 2021, we had two major Capital programs: \$117,000 to purchase 15 acres, and \$100,000 to build an ecoFarm to produce most of our food. Funding for this was generously donated by three board members.

The ecoFarm program began in March 2021, and was nearly completed by the end of the year. **The ecoFarm now produces all of the milk, eggs, meat, and vegetables required to feed our girls and staff on a daily basis.** In addition, the ecoFarm use of modern agriculture practices helps increase agricultural efficiency, reducing the loss of natural resources.

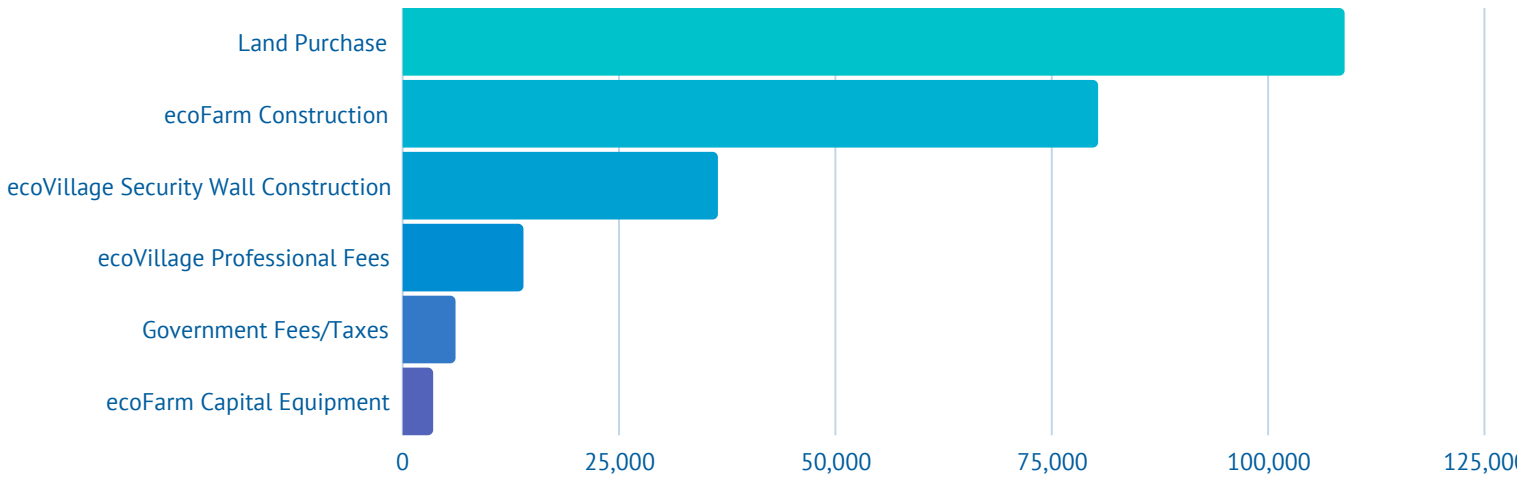
We created a business system to measure all of the expenses, capital expenditures, and production of the farm on a daily basis. [Click here](#) to view these dashboards.

The expenditures below are cumulative through February 2022.

Capital Expenditures by Month (USD)



Capital Expenditures by Project (USD)



GOVERNANCE

MGRC is governed by all-volunteer boards in the United States and Tanzania. MGRC is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit in the United States. It is a registered non-government organization (NGO) in Tanzania.

USA Board of Directors



Executive member
Bruce Hammond
President & CEO,
GrowthPoint



Executive member
joyce Hammond
Treasurer
CFO, GrowthPoint



Executive member
Daniel Martineau
Secretary
Lawyer



Executive member
Rick Morro
Founder, MGRC



Board Member
Randall Freeman
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Board Member
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Mary Flieller
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executive



Advisory Board Member
Greg Scheu
Founder, StratPro
Partners, business
consultancy

Tanzania Board of Directors



Rick Morro
President & Founder,
MGRC



Elisante Loi Laizer
On-site Manager, MGRC



Peter Mmassy
Community Volunteer



Boniface Plasidi
Community Volunteer



Bruce Hammond
CEO, GrowthPoint



Daniel Martineau
Lawyer



THANK YOU!

2021 was a year full of change, growth, joy, challenges, and positive impacts. We're well on our way to implementing our vision on developing our girls and creating a sustainable future. We have purchased our own land to build a sustainable ecoVillage. It will enable us to increase the number of girls to 120, and expand our sustainability projects to cover our operating costs.

Each day, I realize how blessed we are to have such caring and dedicated staff, our many selfless volunteers, and a support network of generous donors.

What brings us all together is our shared love for our creative, intelligent, fun-loving courageous, and wonderful girls.

As we reflect on 2021, we look forward to 2022 and improving the lives of the girls and members of our new community in the Karatu District.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Morro".

RICK MORRO

Maasai Girls Rescue Center, Founder

CONTACT US

Maasai Girls Rescue Center

Karatu District, Tanzania

+255 785 480 050

info@maasairescue.org

www.MaasaiRescue.org

Donations by Check

Make Checks Payable to:

Maasai Girls Rescue Center, Inc.

Mailed to:

5045 Timber Lake Trail

Clarkston, MI 48346 USA

