



Equalizing Access to Healthcare

REPORT FOR THE PANDEMIC YEARS

COVID-19 Edition: 2020, 2021, & 2022

*“In this raging pandemic where people became so selfish and so scared, countries became isolated, and uncertainty was there... but still, **EqualMed** was there.”*

Dr. Dasi, Senior Divisional Medical Officer of the Central Division of Fiji



Volunteers sharing their appreciation on behalf of all patients and healthcare workers. Vinaka Vakalevu is Fijian for “thank you very much.”

CONTENTS

Mission	3
Vision	3
History	3
About Us	4
People	5
Partners and Supporters in 2020, 2021, & 2022	6
CEO's Report	7
Magnitudes of Gratitude	19
Performance and Governance	21
Near Term Objectives and Activities	24
Financial Summary	25
How You Can Help	26
Contact Us	26



Equalizing Access to Healthcare

MISSION

EqualMed aims to improve access to healthcare in under-served communities around the world and make a difference to the lives of many one-step-at-a-time.

VISION

A world in which every human has equitable access to quality healthcare.

HISTORY

The foundation of EqualMed began in 2013 and in 2016 was officially registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity with the IRS and as a corporation in the State of Georgia. Its genesis was Nivita D. Sharma who was a high school student at the time. The call to establish a non-profit to help the medically under-served and economically disadvantaged was motivated by the passing away in 2013 of her beloved grandmother at 69 who did not have access to quality healthcare in the Fiji Islands. Turning her own sorrow of losing her young grandmother, Nivita aims to make a difference to the lives of the medically under-served and those less fortunate to afford basic healthcare. However, Nivita's pledge to bring healthcare to those in need in Fiji was a tremendous struggle when she embarked on her mission as an individual in 2013 and 2014. She used her personal savings to achieve the medical missions in 2013 and 2014 because organizations would not support an individual's cause. Learning the hard way, Nivita established her charity EqualMed as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit to pursue her passion of significantly reducing the medical care disparity throughout the world. Fiji is her first country to work with as it is close to her heart and the fact that large charities do not usually assist the medical system of nations in the South Pacific.

Learn more at <https://equalmed.org/about-us>



“Words cannot express the LOVE & KINDNESS extended to our people in Fiji which had really made a big difference especially here in our remote small rural hospital of Wainibokasi.”

– Receiving doctor

ABOUT US

EqualMed's Inaugural and Continuing Efforts

The foundation of EqualMed began with two medical missions to Fiji by its founder and chief executive officer, Nivita D. Sharma. Using her personal savings, Project Fiji was successfully executed in summer of 2013, and medical needs evaluation resulted in the second project that was successfully executed in summer of 2014. The desperate medical needs of health facilities in Fiji evaluated in the 2013 and 2014 missions led to the formal genesis of EqualMed that was incorporated as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2016. Since then, *Nivita traveled to Fiji using personal savings to ensure the medical supply container shipments were deployed directly to targeted healthcare facilities*. Simultaneously, Nivita conducted needs assessments to prepare for subsequent missions. When Covid-19 struck, EqualMed, through the generosity of its donors, came to the rescue of Fiji's healthcare system by shipping three 40-foot containers of medical supplies in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Why Fiji?

To many, Fiji is paradise and indeed it is for hundreds of thousands of tourists enjoying the clear blue skies, sunshine, and unspoiled beaches engulfing the crystal-clear waters. But for the people of this friendly nation, paradise is elusive. This archipelago of about 300 islands suffered multiple military coups that resulted in the exodus of medical professionals that has left the nation with a relatively neglected health system due to withdrawal of foreign aid since 1987. Yet, patients from neighboring pacific nations come to Fiji for medical treatment because Fiji has the most advanced medical facilities among the 16 countries in the South Pacific. Fiji has a School of Medicine and is the hub of the University of the South Pacific.

Ironically, medical facilities throughout Fiji lack very basic medical supplies. Necessary medical supplies such as micropore tape, thermometers, dressings, stethoscopes and otoscopes, skin prep wipes, crutches, scissors, insulin syringes, diabetes monitoring equipment (blood glucose monitors and test strips), catheters, and even basic medications are lacking and urgently needed. These supplies are available abundantly in the USA. Each year millions of tons of unexpired medical supplies in the USA are discarded in landfills that unnecessarily burden our lovely planet. By redirecting such supplies, EqualMed makes a small yet valuable stride in sustainability efforts.

Patients in Fiji often must bring their own medical supplies. For example, during previous medical missions, Nivita witnessed a 10-year old boy with a suspected broken arm waiting for hours to be seen at a major city hospital only to be told to purchase plaster from a private pharmacy in town as the hospital did not have any. Admitted children were asked to bring their own bedding (pillows, sheets, and blankets). Medical staff use commercial adhesive (sticky tape) tape instead of medical micropore tape on wounds and seconds later the tape falls off (try it on yourself). The list goes on. The take home idea is that basic medical supplies are lacking in paradise – a paradox! Together we can take one-step-at-a-time and make a difference to the lives of many.

Please visit <https://equalmed.org> for details of medical facilities crying for your help.

PEOPLE

EqualMed welcomes interested persons to volunteer as board members and help it grow in its mission to equalize access to healthcare throughout the world.

Founder & Chief Executive Officer: Nivita D. Sharma, MD.

Nivita Sharma is a first-year internal medicine resident at the Duke Internal Medicine Residency Program. She completed her M.D. at Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) in New York City in 2022. Nivita is an inductee of the prestigious Gold Humanism Honor Society in medicine, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Palladia Women's Society. At WCM she served as a senior clinician at the community clinic, internal medicine clerkship peer to peer mentor, and tutor for medical students. She also volunteered on numerous bodies such as the WCM Center for Human Rights, WCM Admissions, WCM Telehealth Taskforce, and New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude and Highest Honors with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Global Health in May of 2018 from The University of Georgia (UGA). At UGA, Nivita held the office of Vice President (2017-2018) of The American Red Cross Chapter, served on the Student Health Advisory Committee (2016 – 2018), and volunteered at Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center from 2015 to 2017. Through her role in MEDLIFE, she travelled to Lima, Peru to set up mobile clinics and provide medical care to less fortunate and medically under-served families in rural communities. While in high school, Nivita engaged in various charitable events to help the economically disadvantaged and those with medical disabilities. Nivita is also a certified Red Cross first aid responder.

As an active medical researcher, Nivita Sharma has published/presented more than 25 medical research studies. While at WCM, Nivita received the Gloria Friedman Teaching Award and Clinical and Translational Science Center summer research fellowship. She is tri-lingual – English, Hindi, and Spanish, and can utter a few Fijian words and phrases.

Chairman of the Board: Divesh S. Sharma, PhD.

Dr. Divesh Sharma is a Distinguished Professor of Accounting at Kennesaw State University, Georgia, USA. He grew up in the Fiji Islands and obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and Griffith University in Australia. Dr. Sharma is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Australia) and worked as an auditor with KPMG prior to his academic career.

Corporate Secretary: Vineeta D. Sharma, PhD.

Dr. Vineeta Sharma is a Professor of Accounting at Kennesaw State University, Georgia, USA. She grew up in the Fiji Islands and obtained her undergraduate and graduate qualifications from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and Griffith University in Australia.








Director of Health Operations in Fiji: Selvin Prasad, MCom.

Mr. Selvin Prasad was born and raised in Fiji and has personally witnessed the dilapidated healthcare system of Fiji. He began his journey with EqualMed in 2017 serving as a volunteer unloading the container of medical supplies. His volunteering transitioned into serving as the communication channel between EqualMed, the Ministry of Health, and healthcare facilities throughout Fiji when the pandemic struck. Selvin manages the ground logistics and deployment. Selvin's love for his country and faith drive his passion to help those in need. He is an assistant lecturer at The University of the South Pacific and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting. Mr. Prasad is the recipient of two academic gold medals for the best master's dissertation in his college and the entirety of the University of the South Pacific.

Director of Education Operations: Ranjani Lata, MSc.

Ms. Ranjani Lata is the Director of Education Operations for EqualMed in Fiji. Her volunteering expanded to serving as the communication channel between EqualMed and the education sector in Fiji since 2019. Ranjani graciously worked during weekends and her vacation to manage the unloading, sorting, labelling, and distribution of medical supplies and equipment during the pandemic years 2020, 2021, and 2022. She spearheaded EqualMed's initiative to equip high school science labs enabling students to engage in science experiments. EqualMed is encouraging science students to consider a career in healthcare as a sustainable strategy to address healthcare needs in Fiji. Ranjani heads the science department at Waidina College. She holds a Master of Science by research in Biology and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Biology.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS 2020, 2021, & 2022

-  **Our generous donors**
-  **Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach**
-  **i-SENS USA, Inc.**
-  **AmazonSmile**
-  **Ministry of Health, Fiji**
-  **Fiji Pharmaceuticals and Biomedical Services**
-  **Diabetes Fiji Inc.**



CEO'S REPORT

Dear Generous Donors, Supporters, Partners, and Future Contributors,

It is with great gratitude and a full heart that I share with you the successes and impacts of EqualMed in 2020, 2021, and 2022. We have been living through tumultuous and unpredictable times, and every corner of the world has been affected. EqualMed's responses to the pandemic in Fiji made rippling positive impacts throughout her healthcare system. This report is our special pandemic edition outlining our work during the Covid-19 pandemic. You can click the links to our webpages for detailed information.

As soon as Covid-19 rapidly spread in early 2020, Fiji, along with many other countries, closed her borders to foreign travelers. At the time, I was a third year medical student on my clinical rotations at one of the largest hospitals in New York City. **I was part of a medical team that encountered the first Covid-19 patient at our hospital.** I recall the **panic and uncertainty** in how to deal with this unprecedented case. I remember running down the hallway after receiving a page from a nurse that our patient's oxygen level was dropping rapidly. I remember doctors and nurses telling me that we were only allowed to keep one N95 mask. I remember looking around for personal protective equipment (PPE) (masks, gloves, shields, gowns, etc) to enter patient rooms, but there were none available – this was the **beginning of the dire shortage** of items in our **New York City hospital** and it felt unimaginably eerie!

I am sure you felt something similar. How can a pandemic strike and even begin to rapidly unfold at this scale within our lifetime? The stories we have heard and tragedies we have seen, are unparalleled. While we were cocooned in our homes and hearing of the strains on our local healthcare systems, we felt isolated. **As isolated as we felt, every corner of the world was collectively suffering.**

In 2020, 2021, and 2022, EqualMed raised emergency funds to ship three 40-foot containers filled with urgently needed medical supplies and equipment. While the list of items is long, I outline in this special Covid-19 report how your generosity helped the Fiji healthcare system during the pandemic.

2020

In 2020, **our donors** helped ship a 40-foot container of medical supplies to care for patients with Covid-19, protect healthcare providers, and treat patients suffering from **diseases that do not pause during a pandemic. PPE were donated to hospitals throughout Fiji.** The overwhelming response from Fiji was one of incredible appreciation and Vinaka Vaka Levu for **YOUR** generosity from healthcare workers, recipients, and the Minister for Health. Please visit this link for details, media reports, and thank you messages: <https://equalmed.org/covid-response-2020>

2021

As the pandemic continued to take its toll around the world, our donors again came together to send another 40-foot container of mostly medical supplies and equipment to fight Covid-19. This year, EqualMed **went deeper into the Fiji Islands** as we learned of **very remote villages suffering from the pandemic and not having access to proper medical care and PPE.** EqualMed also **reached out to vulnerable yet marginalized organizations** that care for the **elderly and orphaned children.** Again, the response from the ground demonstrates our work is highly appreciated and made a huge impact to the lives of those living in fear of the pandemic. Learn more at: <https://equalmed.org/covid-response-2021>

2022

This was a challenging year as inflation was rising rapidly and people were becoming frustrated with the ongoing pandemic and restrictions. **Our donation drive was well below budget** and it seemed our 2022 mission was impossible! Unexpectedly yet fortunately, an anonymous donor to our inventory supplier, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, helped ship the 40-foot container of essential medical supplies to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. These supplies reached the corners of Fiji including **extremely remote villages accessible only by river boat or through dusty unsealed winding tracks through the mountainous terrain**. EqualMed equipped not only hospitals, emergency rooms, and maternity facilities, but expanded its reach to the school for special needs children, whilst continuing to equip homes for orphaned children, the elderly, and schools for a safe re-opening. Details including numerous appreciation videos are available at: <https://equalmed.org/covid-response-2022>

Our work in Fiji over the course of the pandemic unveiled significant challenges small poor nations face. I experienced and witnessed dire circumstances in New York City, the epicenter of the pandemic in the USA. The exponential increase in Covid-19 cases strained the healthcare system and caused significant shortages of PPE, ventilators, and hospital beds. We all know of the make-shift medical facilities to treat Covid-19 patients. We all know of **hospitals throughout the United States turning away patients seeking non-Covid-19 care, many of whom subsequently passed away due to lack of access to medical care.**

Now *imagine* how unprepared Fiji was in combating the Covid-19 pandemic. *Imagine the normal daily predicament of the people of Fiji who lack access to basic medical care. *Imagine* the less fortunate and medically under-served, *imagine* those living in remote areas who cannot afford to travel to a medical facility, and *imagine* the quandary of special needs and orphaned children, those suffering from diabetes, and the elderly - the **most vulnerable and challenged parts of the population seeking medical attention. YOUR** assistance to meet the continuous needs of the medically under-served and less fortunate is paramount, as this shocking pandemic has revealed vulnerabilities and huge ruptures in the already dilapidated healthcare system of Fiji.*

I would like to emphasize that EqualMed is a **rare IRS registered charity** that operates purely on a **volunteer** basis, such that **100%** of **YOUR** contributions are exclusively used to acquire and ship medical supplies and equipment to Fiji. **All of YOUR generous contributions went directly to beneficiaries** as you will see from the graphs of funding sources and financial summaries later in this report. To ensure accountability and transparency, our website provides very detailed inventories of medical supplies and equipment shipped in all years at <https://equalmed.org/>.

I am extremely thankful to all of **YOU**, and to the partners, supporters, and volunteers. Without **YOUR** support, EqualMed would not be able to execute its mission of providing access to healthcare to the medically under-served and economically disadvantaged. **TOGETHER**, we can take one-step-at-a-time and make a **HUGE** difference to their lives. Indeed, ***the world feels smaller when we work together!***

Vinaka vaka levu,



Nivita D. Sharma, MD.



The 40-foot container arrives in Suva, Fiji, ready to be unloaded, after a 60-day journey from USA via New Zealand.

Unloading of the container and inspection and sorting begin – rain or shine our volunteers get to work!



The supplies and equipment are sorted further.



Urgent Covid-19 medical supplies and equipment are carefully allocated and labelled for healthcare facilities across Fiji based on needs.



A press conference is held by the Honorable Minister for Health and the Ministry for the assistance provided by EqualMed and donors during the Covid-19 crisis.

EqualMed's rescue of the Fiji health system to combat the Covid-19 crisis for three consecutive years was unrivaled

EqualMed ventures into unchartered waters in a river boat to an **isolated nursing station**, Muana Ira in Vutia village, accessible only by river. This neglected under-privileged and under-served community lacks essential medical supplies, and received its **first-ever wheel chair!**



Single engine long boat ride; there is no life jacket or rescue equipment! EqualMed volunteers dare it all and have grit! Not everyone knows how to swim!!! BUT the important medical mission is not impossible!



UNLOADING...THEN...

THE LONG WALK TO THE VILLAGE



Village nurse elated with BP equipment; she is now able to monitor blood pressure. **Big vinaka vaka levu to our donors!**



ANOTHER CHALLENGE – REACHING UNDER-EQUIPPED HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE INTERIOR OF FIJI DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The nearest hospital is **TWO** hours away in a small town and the **major hospital** in the Capital City of Suva is about **FIVE** hours away!



YES! Our team in Fiji lost their way in unsealed, dusty, and winding unmarked tracks through mountains...there's no street signs and no GPS signal! They seek directions from villagers.

After five-hours of bumpy terrain, our team arrives to supply and equip...

Covid-19 Isolation Tent

Navosa-Health Facility



EqualMed outreach to corners and remote parts of Fiji continues...

Right: An unemployed patient with diabetes in Koronivia Village who had his leg amputated during Covid-19 is provided a walker through the **generosity of our donors!**

Below: Dr. Ashna and nurse at Labasa hospital receive shipment of PPE and other essentials. Labasa hospital is the main hospital on Fiji's second largest island. It can take up to **14 hours by road and boat** to reach the major hospital in the Capital City of Suva.



"Most of these items that we received were out of stock and we really needed them in our emergency room. Thank you so much for your kind donations, EqualMed. Your donations have been very timely indeed and is very much appreciated." – nurses from Labasa Hospital.



Neonatal items for Nausori Hospital Maternity Ward.



Gloves, masks, stethoscopes, infant scales, and more for **Waidina Nursing Station**, located in the interior of the central division of Fiji.



Much needed supplies and equipment to **rural Wainibokasi hospital** (in the interior of **Naitasiri**), including stretchers, IV poles, PPE, and more.

Donations to **Diabetes Fiji hub** include: dialysis chair, PPE, bed linen, glucose monitors, diabetes test strips, orthotics, and more.





Project Heaven Dr. Kiti and Nurse receive PPE to enable their organization to continue to provide **free services to disable children and elderly in remote villages unable to access healthcare.**

*"Thank you so much EqualMed. Always want to take this opportunity to thank you always for your continued support. We received items from last year and we have already used those in our primary healthcare. As for now during Covid-19, we have just started with the care of the disability patients. **And we are so thankful for the PPE materials now because we are distributing them to patients with disabilities in rural areas.** We assure you these will be used to the best of its capacities."* – Dr. Kiti, Coordinator of Project Heaven.

EqualMed is the only entity to contribute urgently needed medical supplies and essentials to Father Law Home, a **residential care home for abandoned elderly patients**, one of the most vulnerable to Covid-19.

The patients here lack mobility and are in close proximity to each other.



*"The Residents, Sisters and Management Board of Father Law Home are very thankful for your kind donations of towels, masks, gloves, and face shields. Your **generous donation has contributed toward the daily running of the Home, including care for the needy, sick, and elderly residents.**"*



EqualMed is the only organization to provide PPE to Waidina College, a **very remote rural school**, to ensure appropriate precautions are taken to continue in-person education when schools reopened in April 2022.



A big Vinaka Vakalevu from Dilkusha Children's Home for the PPE gifts. Dilkusha is a safe space for living and growth for orphaned children.





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HERITAGE & ARTS

30 March, 2022

EqualMed Hands Over the Hygienic Items for Primary & Secondary Schools to PS Education

EqualMed, a registered charitable organization in United States, handed over essential PPE and other hygienic items to the Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage & Arts, Dr. Anjeela Jokhan, for distribution to primary and secondary schools around Fiji. Whilst receiving the items, Dr. Jokhan mentioned that all these items were important in ensuring that students, teachers, parents and others who entered the schools were well protected. "As we get ready to welcome all students back to school from 11 April for 2022 academic year, the Ministry with its partners such as EqualMed would like to ensure them that schools are supported to have the necessary resources to keep the environment safe for the students and teachers," said Dr. Jokhan.

The Ministry received KN95 masks, wipes, gloves, patient gown, pillow cases, eye shields, girls' hygiene packs and many other essential items which will be deployed to schools to support them have a safe and hygienic environment for students and teachers.

A recorded message from the CEO and the founder of EqualMed, Ms. Nivita Sharma reflected that EqualMed has been donating medical supplies to hospitals and health clinics since 2013 and recently, Ranjani Lata, EqualMed's Director of Education Operations identified this need in primary and secondary schools as well. Consequently, EqualMed expanded their assistance to schools since 2017. In her message, Ms. Sharma, also stated that as we still live in the era of the pandemic, our collective responsibility as a society is to ensure that the next generation of students continue to receive education. She also said that "teachers and students deserve the credit for adhering to the COVID-Safety Protocol instituted in schools which have worked out very well."



Permanent secretary for Education, Dr. Jokhan, with EqualMed's Ranjani Lata showing samples of donated essential medical supplies and PPE for distribution to schools in Fiji for a safe and hygienic return to school after the pandemic

MAGNITUDES OF GRATITUDE

"I take this time to thank EqualMed, to Nivita and other stakeholders, who helped bring instruments to Fiji, donations for our newborns. Because of Covid we are running short on bed linen, forceps, and in general have had a surge of mothers coming into our hospital because other hospitals are reaching capacity.

Yesterday we saw more than 120 mothers and so we are really **running short on items**. But we have it today and I would like to thank you on behalf of the doctors, nurses, mothers. Thank you to the donors, stakeholders, EqualMed and everyone who put money, time, and effort for bringing these items to Nausori."

Receiving nurse at Nausori Maternity Ward.



"In this raging pandemic where people became so selfish and so scared, countries became isolated, and uncertainty was there... but still **EqualMed** was there.

This assistance is so welcomed. **This is the ruralist you can go in the central division [of Fiji]** and we need outreach and our Ministry of Health's motto is leaving no one behind, universal healthcare. So, **definitely these donations will go a long way. Vinaka Vaka Levu."**

Dr. Dasi, SDMO of the Rewa Subdivision and physician at Wainibokasi Hospital

"First of all, I would like to thank EqualMed, the donors, and the founder herself for always thinking of us in the Rewa Division in a rural hospital. I believe it's been the past four years that we've had a partnership. I cannot thank you enough and the foundation for the kind donation you've given to Fiji as a whole."

Nurse Sister Naomi, Wainibokasi Hospital.

Links to some appreciation videos
For more, please visit <https://equalmed.org/>

(press Ctrl key and click a link below)

<https://youtu.be/0YUZPKtcE-A>

<https://youtu.be/GliN9gfjQWY>

<https://youtu.be/NRj-246qR0o>

<https://youtu.be/ruV5uj4B188>

<https://youtu.be/ni8Wc0aCv3Y>

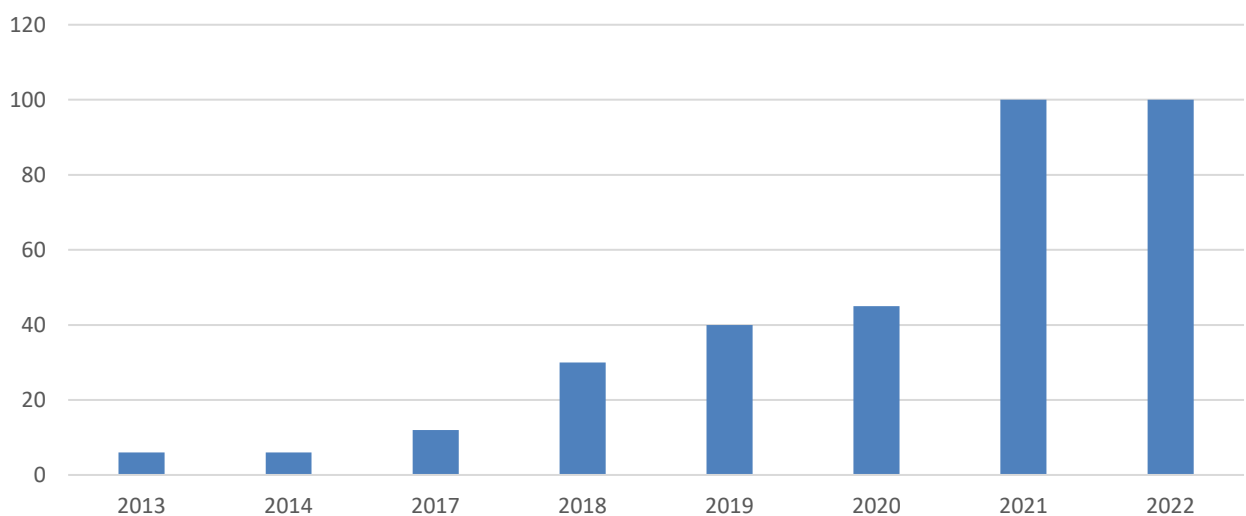
<https://youtu.be/Vyx110KsAo0>

“Thank you for the equipment that will be used to assist our patients here at the hub.

During these hard times it is so difficult for our patients to go and buy their own supplies, so this is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.” – Receiving nurse at Diabetes Hub.

*“In Waidina Nursing Station, **we are right in the interior of Naitisiri. The population on this side has a hard time accessing healthcare facilities.** So, with much needed stuff we received this morning, I would like to thank everyone at EqualMed. **These will greatly assist me in providing better service to the community I serve.**”* – Receiving nurse at Waidina Nursing Station.

Number of Healthcare Facilities Improved



IN 2021 AND 2022 THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN FIJI AND OUR TEAM IN FIJI DEPLOYED MEDICAL SUPPLIES MOSTLY PPE TO OVER **100 HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**. IN 2015 AND 2016, NO MISSION WAS CARRIED OUT AS EQUALMED WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ESTABLISHED AS AN INCORPORATED NON-PROFIT.

*“Vinaka. On behalf of our SDMO, my colleagues of Navosa Hospital. I would like to thank you so much EqualMed and the donors. Thank you so much for the donation we received today. **This is the first time we have received a donation from a nonprofit organization.** Our hospital began in February 2021. We are looking after a population of 7026 and we equip many nursing stations under Navosa subdivision. **We will use these donations with Covid going on.** **We are so fortunate that EqualMed donated masks and PPE.** Once again, big Vinaka Vaka Levu.”* – Receiving nurse at Navosa Hospital.

*“Thank you very much, EqualMed. I would like to sincerely pass gratitude to you. I am very thankful for providing assistance to the interior of Navosa. **Thank you to the donors. We take care of many rural villages and settlements. This is the first time any organization has reached our nursing station, because we are in the most interior part of Fiji. We urgently needed the consumables and PPE donated during this bad pandemic.**”* – Receiving nurse, Naqalimare nursing station.

PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE



EqualMed reports key performance metrics and its governance practices to GuideStar (now operating under Candid), which is the largest worldwide provider of information about non-profits. GuideStar collects, standardizes, and distributes information on millions of non-profits. It promotes and rates the transparency of non-profits so that donors and other stakeholders can have confidence in the charities they support. GuideStar issues four levels of Seal of Transparency: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. **EqualMed attained the highest Platinum Seal of Transparency in each year since 2017.** <https://www.guidestar.org/search>



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

*All our transactions are on a cash basis. For each year in our history, the **total cost has exceeded donor gifts** received. Donor funds are used to acquire, ship, and transport medical supplies and equipment to Fiji. As depicted in the bar graph below, a significant portion of the sourcing and transportation costs to Fiji are met personally by the board members including the CEO. All other major costs such as packaging and transportation of supplies in Fiji to health facilities, customs clearance fees, website hosting, registration fees, and travel costs are also met personally. The 2020 pandemic year was the most successful as donor support has been the highest, while donor support was the lowest in 2022. An anonymous donor to our inventory supply partner, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, enabled the 2022 medical mission.*

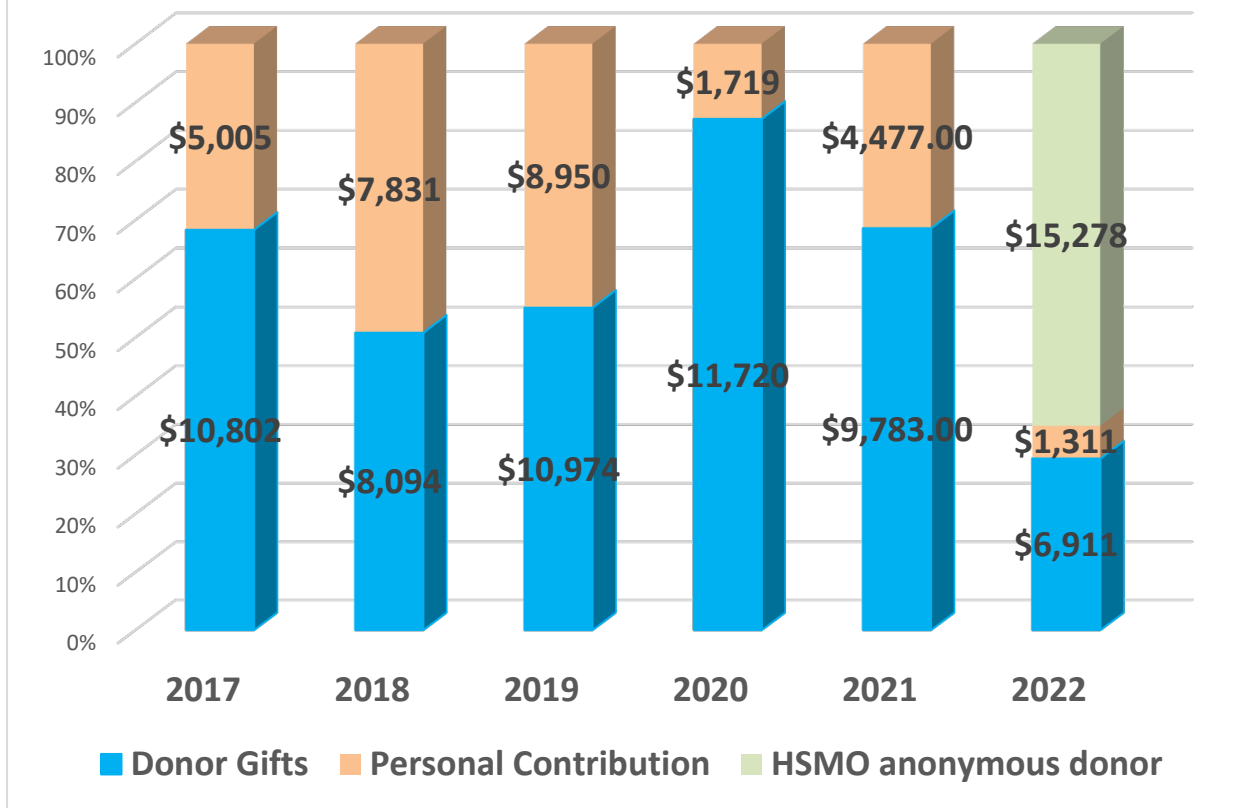
A common performance yardstick of a non-profit is the program expense ratio. This ratio measures the percentage of expenses used to fund the core missions of a non-profit. EqualMed is proud to report that its program expense ratio is 100%. This means that all donor funds including personal contributions go directly toward providing healthcare to the medically under-served and less fortunate.

OUR PROGRAM EXPENSE RATIO IS 100%

***EQUALMED IS A PURE VOLUNTEER RUN
501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CHARITY***

EqualMed is a small charity (less than \$50,000 revenue) and has e-filed Form 990-N with the IRS, search here: <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/details/>

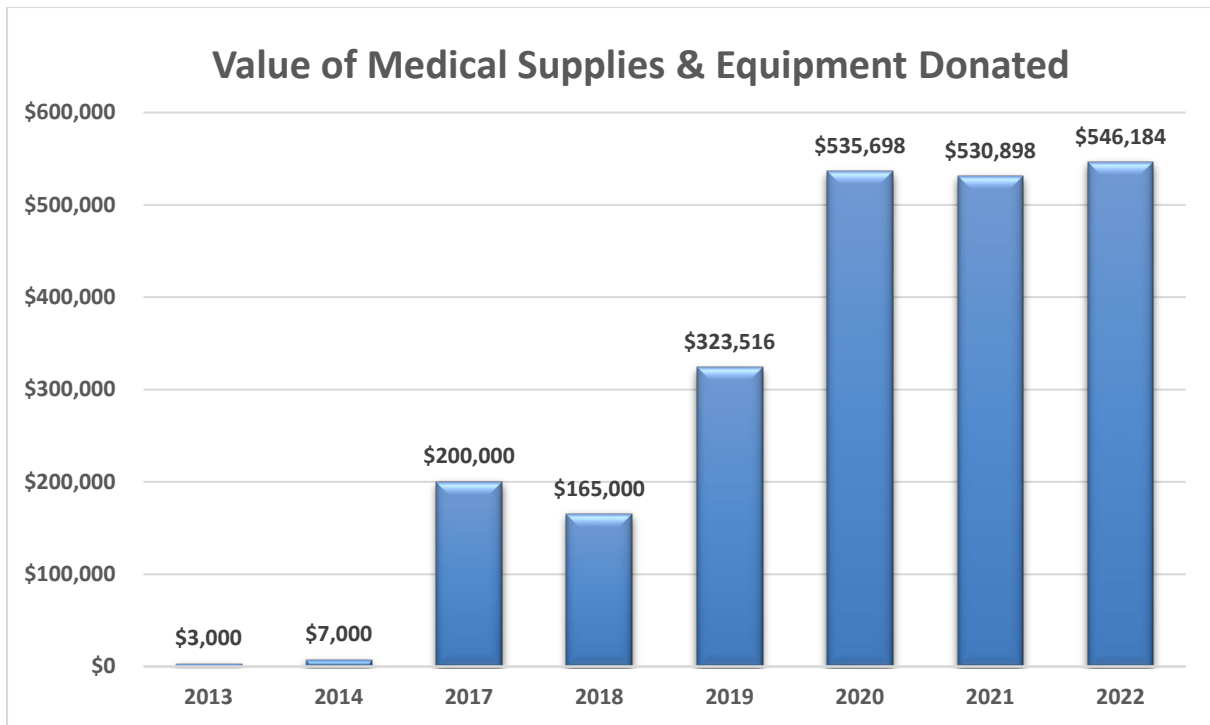
Gifts Received and Personal Contribution for Executing Medical Missions



 **100% OF DONOR GIFTS WERE USED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT IN ALL YEARS**

 **EQUALMED DOES NOT USE DONOR GIFTS FOR OPERATING OR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

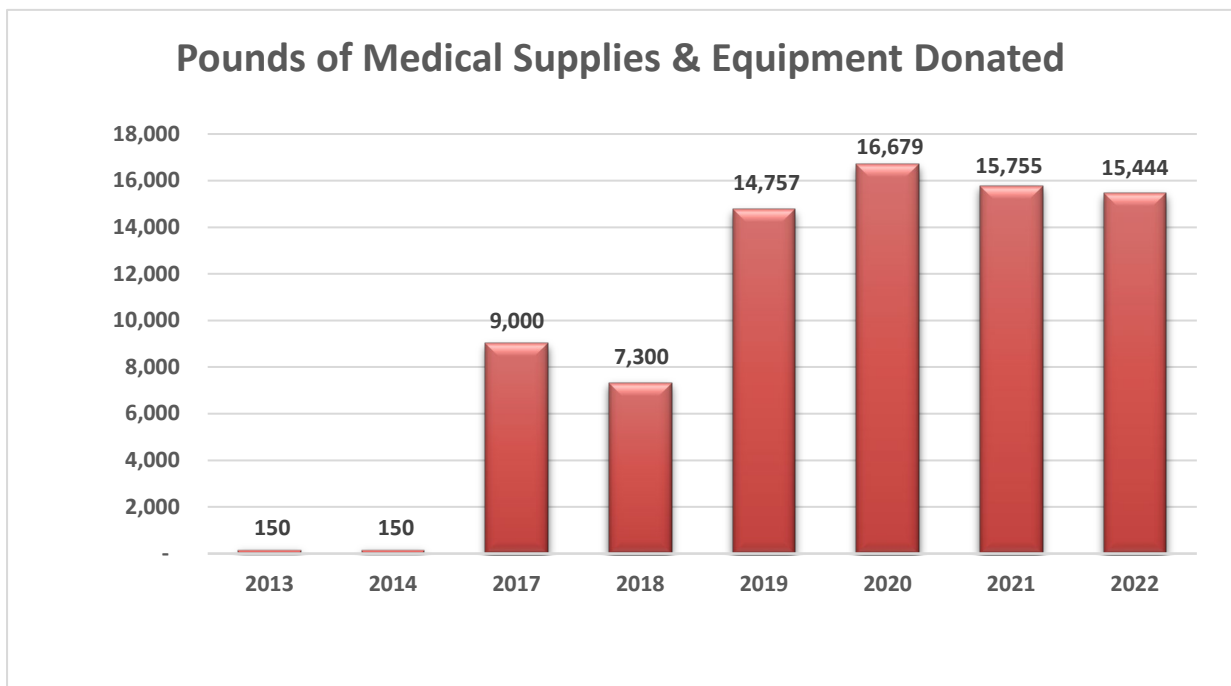
 **NO COMPENSATION IS PAID TO ANYONE**



MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT DONATED IN 2013 AND 2014 WERE FUNDED PERSONALLY AS THESE WERE INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL MISSIONS THAT LED TO THE FORMATION OF EQUALMED



THE VALUES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES DURING THE PANDEMIC YEARS ARE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER DUE TO COVID-19 SPECIAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT NEEDED, SHORTAGES, AND INFLATION



NEAR TERM OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The pandemic significantly strained and drained medical supplies and equipment in Fiji such that many hospitals are “borrowing” supplies from other facilities. When people in Fiji borrow (“kere-kere”), know that you will not see a replacement! This cultural tendency has left many health facilities and especially those in remote and rural areas without essential supplies.

We know that medical supplies and equipment for children as young as three years and village elders suffering from diabetes are forever lacking in Fiji. The Diabetes Hub in Fiji has again reached out to us for support.

One of the senior medical officers we have worked with since 2013, Dr. Dasi, has been transferred to oversee the Central-Eastern Division. Dr. Dasi reached out to us for rudimentary medical supplies and equipment for numerous under-funded and under-equipped healthcare facilities throughout the region she oversees.

Fiji’s Minister for Health, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu, says health facilities are in dire need... learn more here: <https://www.fijitimes.com/health-minister-dr-atonio-lalabalavu-facilities-in-dire-need-of-renovations/>

ABC News of Australia reports that “Fiji’s main training and referral hospital, The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, is in an urgent state of disrepair, and health staff have said it is affecting the quality of patient care. Leaks in ceilings, crumbling walls and poor equipment is crippling doctors and nurses in the more than 100-year old building.” Listen to the dire broadcast here: <https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/programs/pacificbeat/fiji-hospital-cwm-repair/101964502>

Our near term goal is to respond to these desperately dire situations.

Since inflation suddenly and continues to burden us all, **the costs** of acquiring, shipping, and transporting the medical supplies and equipment have **increased**.

The medically under-served and the less fortunate need your support.

Please remember that your gifts are **tax deductible and 100% of donor gifts** are used to provide medical supplies and equipment.



<https://www.fijitimes.com/from-the-editor-in-chiefs-desk-your-october-3-briefing-2/>

Financial Summary for 2020¹

		\$USD
Net donations received (after Paypal and bank fees)		11,720
Payments for medical supplies after HSMO scholarship	(3,500)	
Payments for shipping and transportation	<u>(9,939)</u>	<u>(13,439)</u>
Deficit		(1,719)
Total personal out of pocket contribution²		<u>\$1,719</u>

Financial Summary for 2021

		\$USD
Net donations received (after Paypal and bank fees)		9,783
Payments for medical supplies after HSMO scholarship	(3,500)	
Payments for shipping and transportation	<u>(10,760)</u>	<u>(14,260)</u>
Deficit		(4,477)
Total personal out of pocket contribution²		<u>\$4,477</u>

Financial Summary for 2022

		\$USD
Net donations received (after Paypal and bank fees)		6,911
Payments for medical supplies and shipping and transportation ³	<u>(23,500)</u>	<u>(23,500)</u>
Deficit		(16,589)
Anonymous HSMO donor ³		15,278
Total personal out of pocket contribution²		<u>\$1,311</u>

Notes:

1. The financial summary is for cash donations received and expenses. As a small charity, EqualMed uses the cash basis of accounting.
2. The personal contribution *excludes* in-kind donations related to operating expenses (packaging and transportation of supplies within Fiji to health facilities, travel costs, customs clearance fees, state of Georgia registration fees, website hosting fees, and other expenses).
3. Due to significant shortage of funds in 2022, our supply partner HSMO did not provide a breakdown of costs by medical supplies, and shipping and transportation. HSMO provided significant financial assistance through an anonymous donor to HSMO.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

As you can see from the financial summaries, EqualMed uses 100% of donor gifts to bring healthcare to the medically under-served and less fortunate to afford basic healthcare. Considerably much more needs to be done to bring healthcare to the basic level and many more health facilities beg our support. Over the years and as the pandemic struck, costs have risen and significant budgetary shortfalls have been funded personally. To help EqualMed expand its reach, you can help in various ways including making a donation, sending medical supplies, or assisting in some other way such as transportation/freight of medical supplies within the USA and/or to Fiji. All cash or in-kind donations are tax deductible under the IRS as EqualMed is an IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit charity and is registered in the state of Georgia, USA.

Make a donation

Please contact us or visit <https://equalmed.org/donate-now-1>

Leave a bequest

Please contact us or visit <https://equalmed.org/donate-now-1>

Become a corporate partner or board member

Please contact us to discuss how you can help

Other ways you can help our cause

Please contact us to discuss how you can help

CONTACT US

933 Checkered Way NW
Kennesaw
GA 30152
United States of America

<https://equalmed.org>
equalmed1@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/equalmed/>



Equalizing Access to Healthcare