



Q3 2021 REPORT



From the Executive Director

None of my primary school teachers would believe that I am putting together this narrative in English. Yes, I was that bad in school.

My school report cards read, 'let him try in the next class', while my friends could get a proper pass. I showed some academic potential, but I was not good enough to deserve an outright pass to get into another class. Regardless, I moved from grade 3 to grade 7 on these compensatory passes.

Everyone in my family knew that I would bring a similar school report at the end of the term. Quite embarrassing!

Somehow, I managed to get into secondary school, and my brother got my grade 9 school report. Here is how he announced the news. "Willie, I have your school report, but I think they have made a mistake – you are on position one!" I said that is me! His response was, "there is no way you can be number one in your class." Who changed my story? A teacher, Mr. Phiri and prayers.

He spent time teaching my friends and me including praying and mentoring us outside his official hours. My academic foundation was built. A lion awoke in me. Since then, I was top of my classes and managed to get undergraduate and postgraduate certificates and became a teacher as well.

Mr. Phiri birthed a teacher champion. Rays of Hope acknowledges the power of a teacher. We are now in 5 education districts

with plans to add another district and over 2,600 teachers are already in our network in Blantyre Urban, Blantyre Rural, Zomba, Mchinji, and Ntchisi.

Now, what's next? Taking the teacher skill strengthening program to the rest of the country.

The tutoring I got from Mr. Phiri unlocked unlimited doors of success for me. It is the reason Rays of Hope continues to provide free tutoring activities to 976 students.

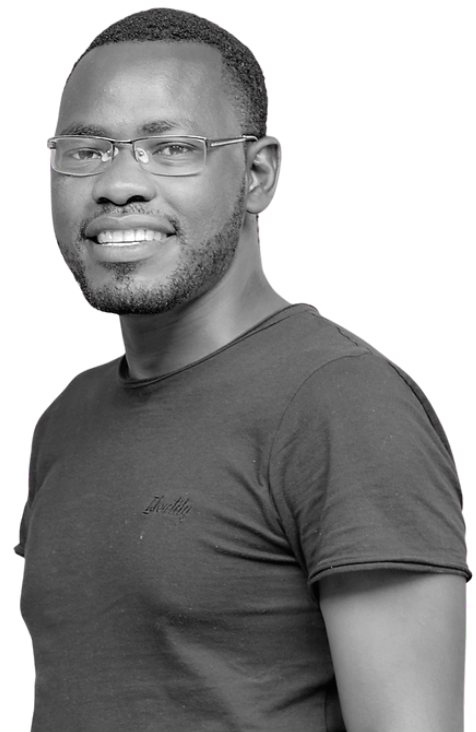
Our impact is growing! Zomba Rural Education district moved from position 10 in performance to 5 out of the 34 districts, 31 out of 40 targeted schools in Blantyre Urban scored over 72% at the national standardized exams. We have a 100% promotion rate and a 95% completion rate in the afterschool initiative participants.

Please, take some time to appreciate what the Lord placed on our table in the past quarter and pray for us.

Take note: we are rebranding, and it will be great to hear your thoughts on our style and colours.



Willie Mpasuka
Executive Director





About Us

We exist to nurture children and youth with abilities essential for life management, academic excellence and spiritual development to become competent leaders. We use a transformative education model to build teachers' capacity, support learners, and provide financial inclusion solutions to youth for a productive life.



Our Vision

Every child and youth access transformative education.



Our Mission

To transform Malawi by equipping teachers and educate children in public schools.

Our Approach and Goals

Academic Innovation

- Train 3,000 teachers in 6 education districts to reduce technical gaps
- Run after-school programs across 10 primary schools in Blantyre district and work with 850
- Maintain 95% primary school completion rate among the 10 targeted primary schools in Blantyre.



Academic Inclusion

- Support 250 secondary school students with bursaries that will guarantee access to secondary school education in various schools in Blantyre.
- Run coaching and mentoring activities with 200 secondary schools on our bursary program to remove the non-financial barriers to access secondary school education. Activities include Sexual and Reproductive Health, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Economic Integration

- Reach out to 70 young people with activities meant to increase their ability to engage in economic activities through entrepreneurship training and soft loans.



Milestones

976 students back to our after-school initiative

Due to the reduced number of hours per day since students stay longer in school, we added Fridays and Saturdays to serve more kids.



8 Village Loan Saving Groups for Youth are formed and operational

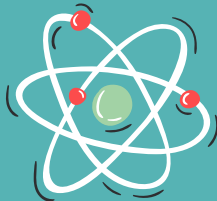
One way of ensuring that youth have economic independent prospects is to develop a saving culture. We have facilitated the formation of 8 Village Loan Saving Groups for youth. It goes together with our discipleship activities.



The 1st Class Takes the National Standardized Tests

Our 10th-grade students, 16 of them, have started their exams this month. This is the first national standardized test for high-school students.

700 students attend our Science Summer Camp!



When schools were on break, we decided to pilot a summer camp. It was a success, and kids had a lot of fun. We decided to integrate the program into our normal afterschool activities. We appreciate science through the lenses of our faith.



2,679 Teachers trained in literacy, numeracy, and the management of large classes.

In 2021, we planned to train 3,000 teachers through our teacher network model. It is an approach that establishes communities of practice among teachers. So far, we have trained 2,679 teachers in literacy and numeracy skills, and inclusive teaching approaches.

Quarterly Progress

Summer Camp

The 2020 Malawi Education Sector Analysis, claims that there are 646,870 students with only 8599 science books representing just 1%. The trend is the same in standards 6 – 8. Lack of science resources for students deems their possibility to pursue science-related careers.

In the month of August, we piloted a science summer camp, while students were on a short break. This was the first of its kind in the communities we serve, yet is a powerful tool to unlock their academic potential. Despite the importance of science, it lacks the necessary support and resources.



Crayon Making

The Science Summer Camp drew 700 students from 10 communities and participated in all science experiments, projects, and lessons. The students loved the experience and asked us to do this every school break.

Balloon Powered Car



Teacher Training



We provide relevant hands-on skills to in-service teachers in public schools. Together with clusters of schools, we identify skills gaps that teachers have to teach better. We develop content and offer the training to the teachers. In joint collaboration with the Ministry of Education, we monitor and supervise the impact of the training.

The picture you above, is one of our regular activities in training teachers. In this activity, we targeted school leadership from 57 schools in Zomba. We offered training in supervision and coaching. This activity and many others come because of the following reasons.

First, in 1994, when the Ministry of Education introduced free primary education, enrolment numbers of students exceeded the capacity of the government to offer quality education. During this time, the government employed 10th and 12th-grade high school graduates to teach in schools. They hoped to train them on school breaks, but the quality was not the same. It was not as great. Unfortunately, many of those have now risen in responsibility and influence in the education system. They are now running schools.

Second, in 2018 the teacher education curriculum changed in Malawi. However, none of the curriculum changes trickled down to the rest of the teachers in the education systems. Our program is one of the few ways to trickle down the changes in the curriculum.

We run one of the largest teacher networks in Malawi. We are serving 2679 teachers, present in 222 primary schools, serving at least 230,000 students.

Afterschool Program



Our afterschool program is an answer to many gaps in the education system, such as high dropout rates, absenteeism, and repetition. Students go to school in the morning and come to our program where we offer group and individual tutoring. Just like how it was with our Executive Director, we target those who are not performing well. We promise them love, attention, tutoring, and trusting God together. Our model works; 95% completion rate since 2012!

In the last quarter, from the science summer camp activity, we discovered that there is a huge interest in our students in science technology engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities. Following that, we have added the STEM piece to the afterschool program.

The picture you see above was a lesson on engineering. Students various sources of energy. The little item in the girls' hand is a wind car. It showcases the clean energy from wind.

Community Engagement

We believe in proximal approach in solving the problems in our communities. One of the priceless opportunities that we cherish is home visits. We literally visit every household from where our program participants come from. We understand that education challenges do not only start from schools, but from the homes as well.

From the visits we undertake, 17% of the parents/guardians reported a positive character of the students, 16% reported that their children's literacy and numeracy skills have improved, and all of the parents appreciated the work of Rays of Hope.

We also met parents and guardians to inform them and get feedback on our achievements and plans. We convened 156 parents and guardians who agreed with us to extend our programs to include weekends. From that adjustment, our numbers have grown from 700 to 976 students.



Parents' Meeting

Baseline Study

The Ministry of Education joined Rays of Hope to carry out a baseline study in Dedza district to assess teachers' skills in public schools. Our next district of expansion is Dedza. Our survey preliminary results show the following:

- The district has 247 public primary schools, 68 are purely operated by the government, and 179 are government schools, but run by various mission agencies.

There are 3,110 trained teachers and 298 untrained teachers. Despite that, teacher skill gaps are present even for those who are trained.

- 100% of the teachers felt the need to have more training on strengthening their capacity.
- 34.6% need mentorship on teaching methods.
- 15.9% require foundational skills to teach reading and writing.
- 15% wish to be trained on inclusive education



Research Assistants Training

Team Updates

Our team keeps growing to ensure that our students are getting the best of our service. We have added six new people to the team. We have three full-time personnel, one fellow, and two interns.



Mussa Kalimeyo
Campladers Coordinator



Idah Smart
Program Officer



Esther Nkhoma
Intern



Pemphero Phiri
Intern



Jinston Baston
Intern



Clara Lungu
Program Officer



Mike Chimombo
Communication Fellow

Partnerships & Advocacy

Oxfam Ibis partners Rays of Hope's Consortium

Rays of Hope leads a consortium (partnership) of four organizations and applied for a grant to Oxfam Ibis on inclusive education. Our work in system change showed that we are still behind by leaving out students who are ably different and come from poor backgrounds. We got the grant, and we will be implementing a three-year advocacy program raising awareness of the need to improve service for students with special needs. The program will be implemented in three countries – Tanzania, Kenya, and Malawi by Rays of Hope, Fount for Nations, Kesho Kenya, and Shule Direct. Oxfam has made a \$1.2 million grant to support this initiative for the next three years.

Rays of Hope joins the Teacher Education Technical Working Group

Rays of Hope has joined the Teacher Education Technical Working Group. This is the high-level routine convening of stakeholders who work in the teacher education space. These actors shape the teacher education agenda. Our work comes in too handy for such conversations. In this space, we interact with the Director of Teacher Education and other players such as teacher training colleges, and teacher training institutions.



Impact Story

700 bags of maize for 36,636 students in schools

One of the drop-out causes in Malawian schools is hunger. When students have gone to school without food, they barely concentrate and learn effectively. The situation is dire in rural locations such as Mchinji and Ntchisi where we are running teacher training programs. Considering COVID-19 disruptions, we needed to be proactive, and we introduced a Home-Grown School Feeding initiative.

Rays of Hope partnered with 50 communities to run the school feeding program serving 36,636 students. The purpose of the initiative was to give the schools the ability to provide a nutritional meal to students while in school to encourage attendance and achieve nutritional benefits. We provided the communities with farm inputs, but the communities contributed land, labor, and care. Each school gave 2 acres of land for the initiative.

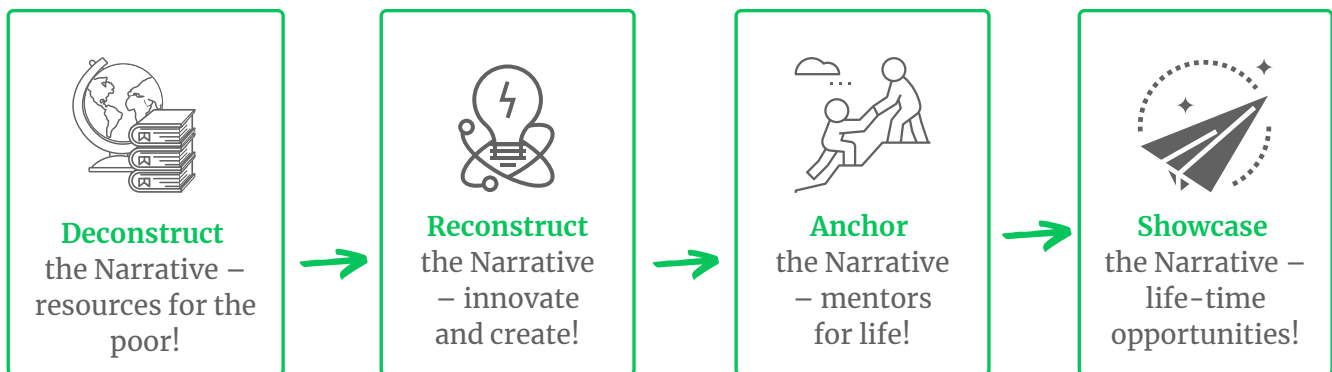
We were shocked by the positive results of the initiative; we met our goals. In Ntchisi, we provided 200kgs of maize as seed, communities harvested 25400kgs; 800kgs of Soybeans, they harvested 1000kgs of Soybeans. In Mchinji, we provided 300 kgs of maize as seed, communities harvested 33,750kgs of maize; 1200 kgs of Soybeans, they harvested 3700kgs of Soybeans. The total number of 50 kilograms bags of maize harvested for both districts is 1,183 bags which is an equivalent of 59,150 kilograms or 59 tones, 150 kg); and of Soya is 94 bags (4,700 kilograms).



Rays of Hope Academy is a fee paying school in Blantyre that opened in 2019. Income raised through the Academy supports the Rays of Hope programs and mission.

Current Enrolments: 43

Our Approach



English Program Commences

Rays of Hope Academy is a fee-paying secondary school that enables income generation for Rays of Hope Ministries. Our Academy is poised to nurture young and raw talent through an education built on meaningful innovation and integrity.



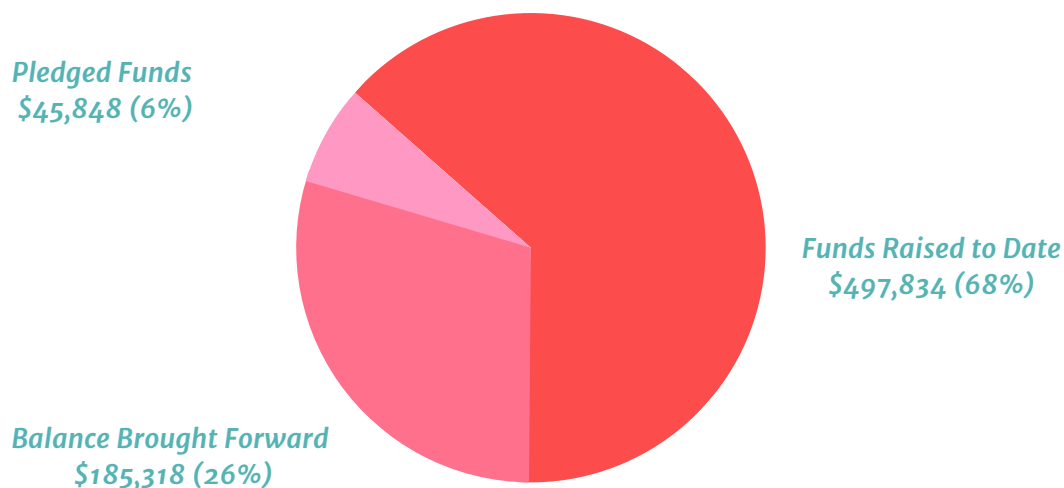
We provide quality high-school education to students from ultra-poor homes. We realized that the majority of them do not have a solid English language competence to ably understand the high-school level content. We decided to run an English program, designed to strengthen students' english skills.

We are excited to have Ms. Lori Smith. She is originally from America and has a ton of experience in tutoring kids. Alongside her tutoring, she incorporates biblical counseling. Ms. Smith's time is one of the loved sessions by our students.

Financial Update

For the year 2021, our budget was capped at US\$1,053,083. However, it was a slow year on many fronts caused by COVID-19, and our spent will not reach the budgeted amount. We have revised our budget to reflect the current situation. Our revised budget for 2021 is US\$729,000.

How we're tracking towards our budget of US\$729,000



Year To Date Expenditure

Budget Line	Annual Amount Budgeted	Expenditure To Date
Programs	315,131	128,934
Personnel	197,100	133,762
Operation	76,250	49,193
Capital	99,355	13,172
Capacity Building	13,000	5,238
Academy	28,164	17,033
Total	729,000	348,056



Connect With Us



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