

Q1 REPORT 2021



WELCOME

It became quite clear in elementary school that I was different. My classmate looked normal. Very normal, I thought.

I clasped a used, plastic sugar bag that held my notebooks, not to get wet from the rains, as I took the daily, early, and cold morning walks to school without shoes. While walking, I thought, "we all have to do this to make it in life." Wrong.

I get to school, soaked. At least my notebooks are still dry – thanks to the plastic bag. Surprisingly, my classmate is all dry, in black leather shoes that are thoroughly polished. He has a backpack that held his books, a packed meal, and some money to spend at the tea break. My bewildered face is enough of a question to him.

He goes, "my dad dropped me by his car on his way to work – that is why I am not soaked. He will send his driver to pick me up after the classes, it may continue to rain." That term my friend was top of the class. I did not pass or fail, I was told – "...just go try in the next class..." This sums up my elementary school years. I thought I was not smart. Teachers said the same. My family of nine children endorsed the opinion as well. Only one teacher believed otherwise.

He worked with me outside the classroom hours to help me get it. All this was done while I was on my knees praying to God for success. God saw my faith. The rest is history. I made it.

At Rays of Hope, we believe that children like those need support – that is why we started our after-school program in elementary school. The program maintains a 95% completion rate. Yet, Malawi's completion rate is at 35%.

We also believe that teachers should be supported. That is why we started the teacher skill strengthening initiative. To date, we are in 222 primary schools, training over 2,000 teachers, serving 230,000 learners in 5 education districts!

Our dream is to reach all the teachers in Malawi.

Kindly, spare a few to appreciate the impact of our programs.

God bless you!

Willie Mpasuka
Executive Director



ABOUT RAYS OF HOPE

Our mission is to transform Malawi by equipping teachers and educate children in public schools.

We exist to nurture children and youth with abilities essential for life management, academic excellence, 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 is that every child and youth access transformative education.



OUR APPROACH & 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
students

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.



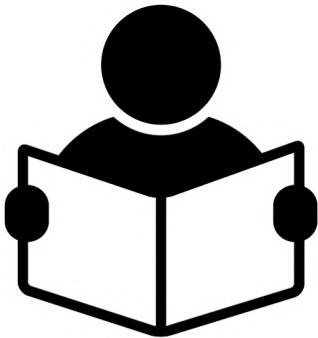
Rays of Hope Academy

Enrol
20
students in Form 1 by
1 February 2021



Get an examination
center number for
the Junior
Certificate of
Education

MILESTONES



600 students back to our after-school initiative

Usually, our afterschool initiative has 850 learners. They get education support from our Godly tutors so that they perform well in their classes. We just opened three weeks ago, and our learners are slowly coming back to the program. The reduced number is caused by the different class schedules that are in place in observing the COVID-19 precautionary measures. Over time we hope to get back to normalcy.



100 new after-school clubs formed

In partnership with CARE Malawi, Rays of Hope opened 100 new afterschool clubs in Mchinji and Ntchisi. The clubs are entirely run by communities. Community volunteers step in to reinforce numeracy and literacy skills of grade 1 - 3 learners.



753 Teachers trained in literacy, numeracy, and inclusive teaching approaches.

In 2021, we plan to train 3,000 teachers through our teacher network model. It is an approach that establishes communities of practice among teachers. In this ended quarter, we have trained 753 teachers in literacy and numeracy skills, and inclusive teaching approaches.



82% of students passed grade 12 exams

In Malawi, it takes 16 years for one to acquire a college degree. High school is completed in 12th grade.

This year was a difficult one. Exams were canceled because they leaked, amidst the coronavirus. As such, the nation scored an all-low pass rate in decades. Only 49% passed. But, 50% of the students in our bursary program passed. It is an all-low as well, but we are proud of what they have managed to achieve. Thank you for your support.

15 new students joined ROH Academy



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, academic calendars have changed. Malawi's new academic year starts in January and ends in December. We are very excited that we have 15 new students joining the Rays of Hope Academy.

RAYS OF HOPE ACADEMY



Deconstruct
the Narrative –
resources for
the poor!



Reconstruct
the Narrative
– innovate
and create!



Anchor
the Narrative
– mentors for
life!



Showcase
the Narrative –
life-time
opportunities!

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 that is built on meaningful innovation and sincere integrity.

Rays of Hope Academy welcomes new 15 students to start their grade 9 with us. We are very pleased with the progress, which we have achieved so far, considering the obvious pandemic challenge. The institution has achieved most of the registration requirements.

The Academy is registered with the Independent School Association of Malawi (ISAMA). We are also registered by the Ministry of Education, the arm of the government. Lately, we just got our registration with the Malawi National Examination Board (MANEB). This registration allows the Academy to have an examination center number for national standardized examinations that take place in grades 10, and 12.



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QUARTERLY PROGRESS

Program Update

The COVID-19 has been a distraction for the past two years! The surge of the COVID-19 vaccine, the acquittal of teachers' sit-in, and the decrease of the pandemic cases, bring a sigh of relief. Schools are now in full swing, and our programs are right back on course. Rays of Hope will resume all its programs that were on hold for a considerable length.

In the second quarter, the following activities will resume. First, teacher training and supervision will commence in the following districts: Zomba Rural, Mchinji, Ntchisi, Blantyre Rural, and Urban. We plan to train 3,000 teachers this year serving 300,000 learners. Second, our afterschool program plans to continue serving 850 learners in Blantyre Urban. However, we have just established new 100 afterschool clubs in Mchinji and Ntchisi run by community volunteers. Third, we plan to recruit 70 youth in our economic integration program, which involves the provision of soft loans and business training.

Community Update

We are proud of the work we have achieved with our communities. In Mchinji and Ntchisi, 100 communities have successfully grown crops to help feed students as a way of increasing attendance rates. The crops that we have grown are maize and soybeans. We are looking forward to seeing these crops be the catalyst for school attendance and the sustenance of our investment.

Successes

5 teachers promoted

One of the goals of our teacher training initiative is to help teachers grow in their profession. In Blantyre Rural, one headmaster is promoted to be the Primary Education Advisor (PEA). This is a leadership post that oversees 15 primary schools. In addition, four teachers are promoted to be headmasters. This is a post that leads the whole primary school. All of them say that our pieces of training are a huge reason for the promotion. The Ministry of Education promotes teachers that have shown growth in their professions. In Blantyre Rural, we are the only ones who provide that training.

100 New Afterschool Clubs Formed

In partnership with CARE Malawi, Rays of Hope has created 100 afterschool clubs in Mchinji and Ntchisi districts. These clubs are run by the communities. The community volunteers tutor learners in grades 1 - 3 in primary school (elementary school) focussing on literacy and numeracy skills. All 100 clubs are currently functional, and the community is fully committed to sustaining them.

Challenges

- Learners/students have lost school time due to the school breaks caused by the pandemic, and the teachers' sit-in.
- It has been quite a challenge to easily run our teacher initiative since we have had school breaks and teachers' sit-ins.

New Programs / Systems

We have partnered with 100 communities to grow crops to support students while in school. This is done to increase students' attendance rates. We only provided the farm inputs, but they have contributed labor, land, and care.

Our Team

We plan to recruit a Human Resource expert to support our team in executing their tasks with no distractions. No major changes have occurred in the team.

Partnerships and Advocacy

Rays of Hope (Malawi), Kesho-Kenya (Kenya), Shule Direct (Tanzania), and Fount for Nations (Malawi) formed a consortium to tackle gaps between inclusive education policies and status on the ground.

Led by Rays of Hope, the consortium responded to the call for the proposal made by Education Out Loud, funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Out of 177 applicants from 40 countries, our concept note was in the top 10! Ultimately, our proposal seeks to launch an online policy monitoring tool that will monitor the implementation of inclusive education policies in southeast Africa - Malawi, Kenya, and Tanzania.

We have entered into a partnership with OXFAM IBIS, the grant agent. They will financially support the consortium to develop the full proposal for a possible three (3) year project.

Events & Conferences



Rays of Hope attended the Skoll World Forum organized by the Skoll Foundation. The Skoll Foundation catalyzes transformational social change by investing in, connecting, and championing social entrepreneurs and other social innovators who together advance bold and equitable solutions to the world's most pressing problems.



The Executive Director, Willie Mpasuka, is the speaker at the 2021 Center for Humanitarian Leadership Conference held virtually. He joins two other speakers on **Why 'Localization' is Not Enough: Shifting Funding and Power to Local Leaders**.



Rays of Hope plans to attend the Praxislabs Summit coming up in May 2021. Praxis is a creative engine for redemptive entrepreneurship, supporting founders, funders, and innovators motivated by their faith to love their neighbors and renew culture. We always look forward to Praxislabs to rejuvenate our faith in conversation with other faith-based organizations.

FROM A CAMP KID TO INTERN

It was a normal day in 2009 when our team was waiting to commence our activities at our remedial center. We called the center a camp. At snack break, I run into a volunteer who pointed at some kid and commented, "that boy is a standard 5 repeater. He is new and his grades are not looking great." I picked interest in him because his performance seemed like mine when I was his age.

Madalitso Jeke shared his story. He was living with his mother who was selling charcoal for him to go to school. He had no memory of his father and no traces of his relation. Mada (as we call him) and the mother were living with his grandmother since they could not afford to live independently paying rent and all. It was exceedingly difficult to make ends meet, and this affected his performance in class. His teachers wrote him off, and his presence at the Rays of Hope program was motivated by the daily snacks.

A group of Godly tutors worked with him so that he can catch up with friends. Bingo! In a matter of two school terms, his performance improved to the surprise of his teachers. Shortly, loads of students joined our program. Mada was in the top 10 that year. After that, he was in the top 5. He did well in the national standardized examinations and got into the high school in the city.

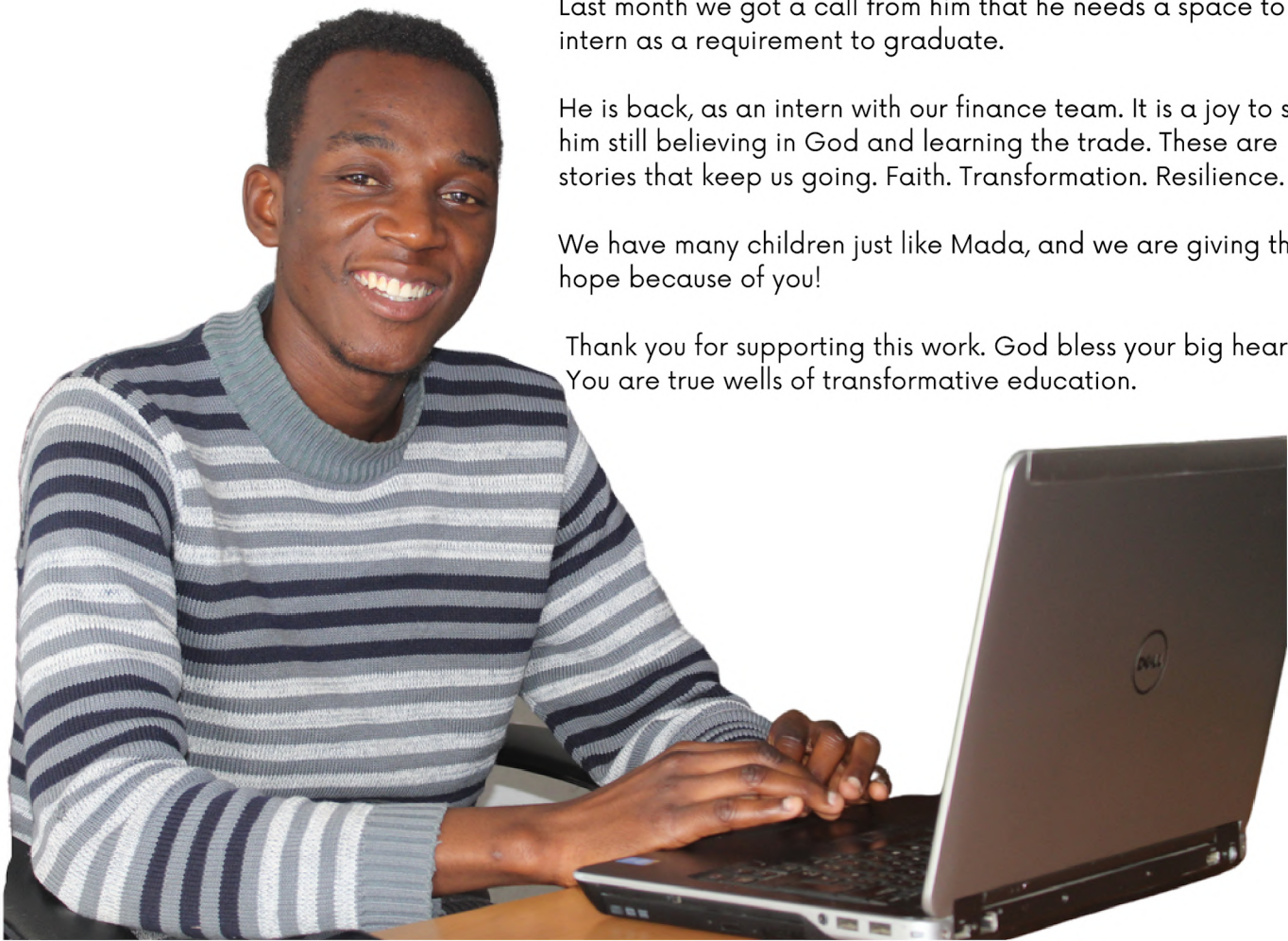
Through our supporters, we paid for his education. He passed grade 12 exams and made it into university. He is now in the final year studying for a degree in finance and banking.

Last month we got a call from him that he needs a space to intern as a requirement to graduate.

He is back, as an intern with our finance team. It is a joy to see him still believing in God and learning the trade. These are stories that keep us going. Faith. Transformation. Resilience.

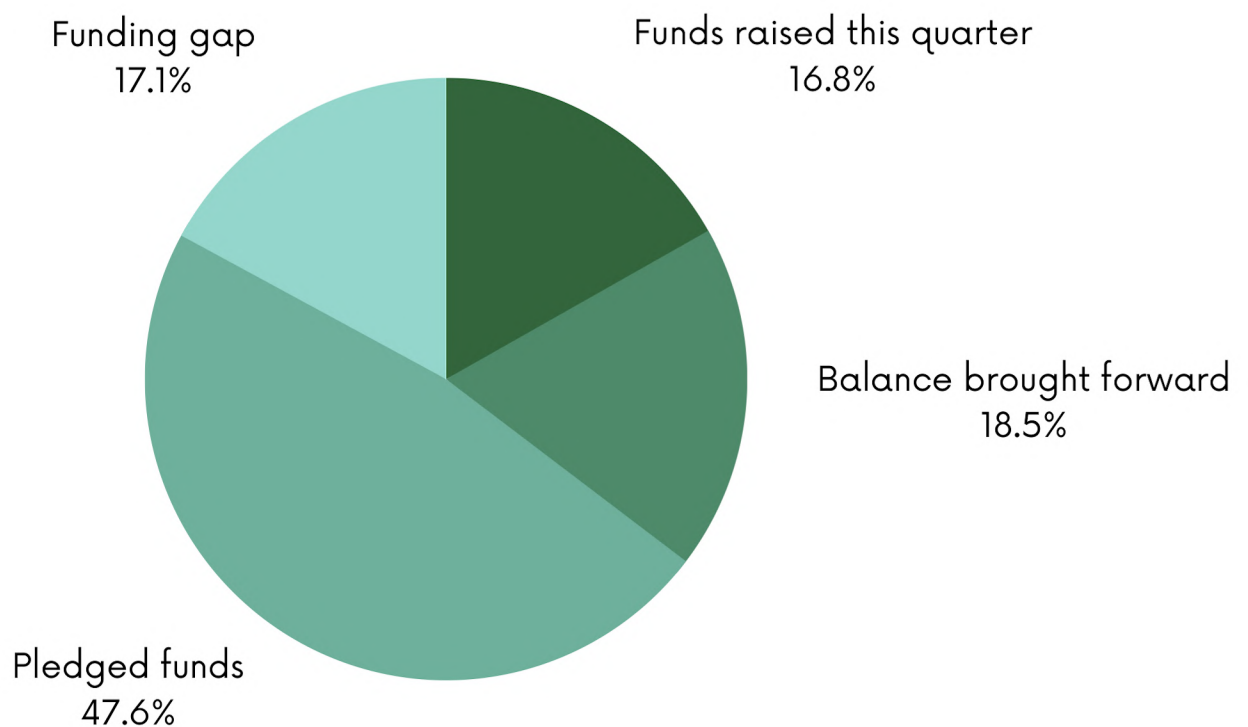
We have many children just like Mada, and we are giving them hope because of you!

Thank you for supporting this work. God bless your big hearts. You are true wells of transformative education.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

How we are tracking towards our annual target of US\$1,053,082



Quarterly expenditure

EXPENDITURE	MWK	USD
Programs	24,295,392	31,348
Administration and personnel	24,927,737	32,164
	49,223,129	63,513

CONNECT WITH US



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www.raysofhopemalawi.com



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