


**RAYS
HOPE**

Transformative Education

Quarter 2

2022 REPORT

 www.raysofhopemalawi.org

From the Executive Director



I must admit, it was super hard to lead Rays of Hope last quarter. Malawi's economy is quite fluid, and we felt the pain of it a couple of months ago. Most of our budget lines were not (still are not) making sense at all due to the inflation rate skyrocketing in Malawi, and globally.

When we tried to adjust the budget, we got even more devastating news. The Malawi Government found it necessary to devalue our currency by 25%. I woke up drained.

I walked into the office and found the team spirit low. Things seemed too hard. However, 1 Peter 5:7 was my encouragement. "...cast your burdens unto God, for He cares for you!" Later, I went out for fresh air.

While there, I reached a community that was generally drunk except one young man, Yamikani. His English was impeccable. He tells me that he is studying veterinary medicine, and I was shocked. I asked one question. Why are you different?

He says that though he comes from a humble background, but a scholarship from Rays of Hope made him go through highschool. Here is the surprising thing – he did not know that I co-founded Rays of Hope.

His story made me jump from where I was sitting and rush to continue working. To all our supporters, regardless of what you are going through, know that you are making a difference through our work.

May you not tire to walk alongside us. God bless you!

Willie Mpasuka
Executive Director

About Us

Rays of Hope exists to transform Malawi by equipping teachers and educating children in public schools. Our program areas are teacher training, remedial lessons, provision of bursaries/scholarships, and we run an excellent high-school for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

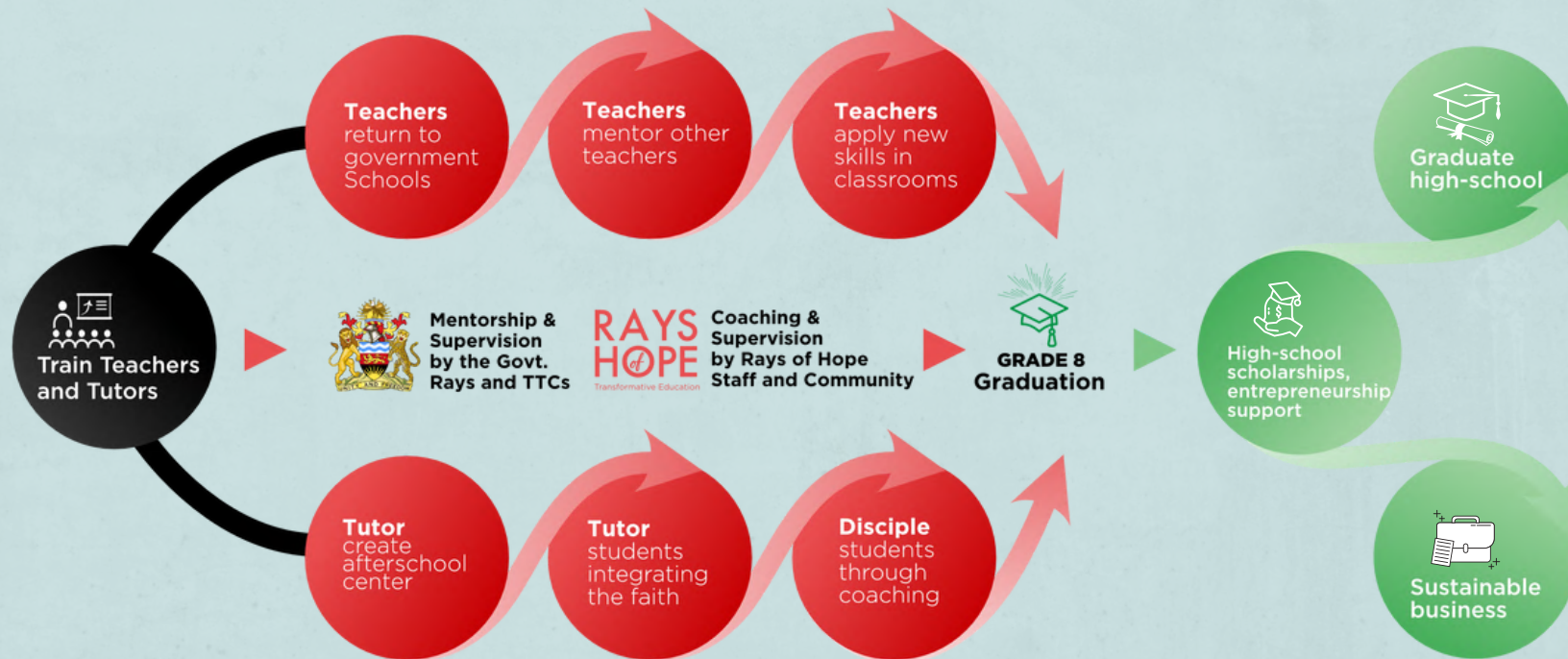
We strive to nurture children and youth and empower them with abilities essential for life management, academic excellence, spiritual development to become leaders in their society.

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 Model



Rays of Hope Malawi

Approach & Goals



Academic Innovation

Train 4,000 teachers in 6 education districts to reduce technical gaps.

Run after-school programs across 10 primary schools in Blantyre district and work with 1100.

Maintain 95% primary school completion rate among the 10 targeted primary schools in Blantyre.



Academic Inclusion

Support 300 secondary school students with bursaries that will guarantee access to secondary school education in various schools in Blantyre.

Run coaching and mentoring activities with 260 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.



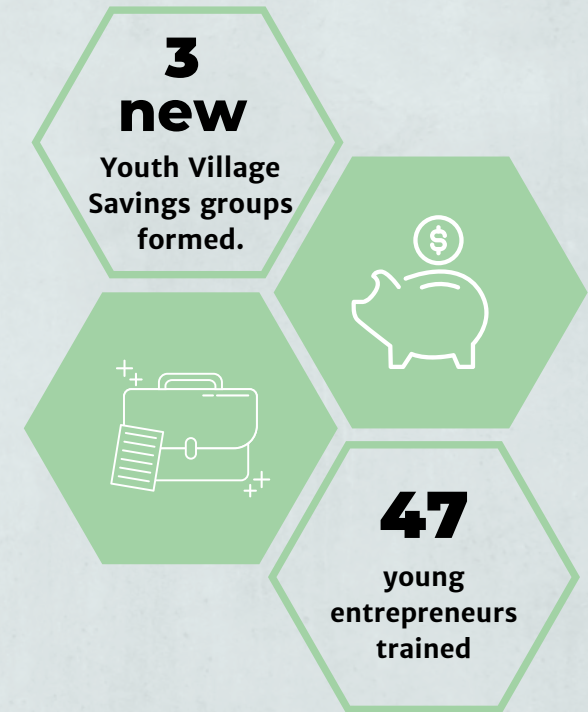
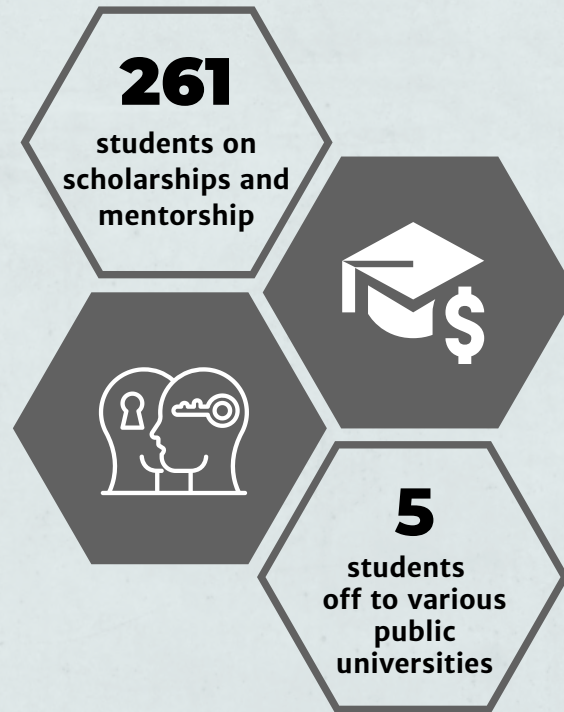
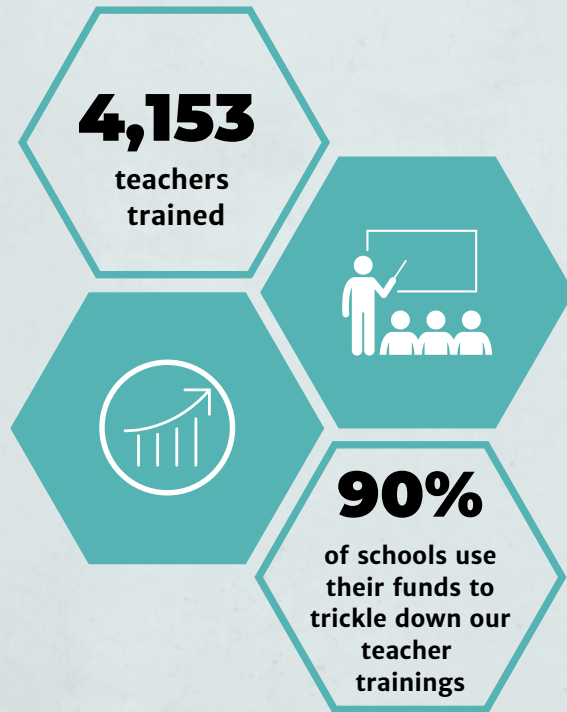
Economic Integration

Expose 100 youth to entrepreneurship opportunities

Support 10 innovative enterprise ideas from ideation to an actual business

Establish 20 youth village saving groups in Blantyre

Quarterly Milestones



Quarterly Program Update

Academic Innovation

This program provides opportunities for students to learn differently from the traditional options with the integration of faith. In that bid, the program has two main strands. First, tutor students in public primary schools. Second, we train teachers to improve their delivery in the classrooms.

Afterschool

Our afterschool initiative continues to provide the needed education support to our students. In the past quarter, apart from the normal tutoring services, we also carried out a range of activities necessary at enhancing learning and transforming their character.



700

**lunch meals served
everyday**

Science Camps

We hosted several science-focused activities and served more than 1000 children from different schools. In our previous activities, we saw at least 700 students, which is lower than what we have served now. Apart from the exciting science projects and experiments we conducted in our centers, we took about 600 students on a field trip to the Malawi University of Science and Technology to appreciate science. We are doing this to induce curiosity toward science. We believe that this is the foundation that will model future innovators for Malawi and beyond.

Feeding initiative

Many thanks to all partners who support us in sustaining the feeding initiative. Every day we serve lunch to nearly 700 students in our afterschool program. We find this a necessary piece to our programming considering that most of our students come from homes where they only manage a meal a day. Regardless, it is nearly impossible to learn on an empty stomach. Also, true to our faith, we truly become the hands and feet of Jesus.

Quality Tutoring

Arguably, our program offers the best tutoring spaces in our community. While other teachers run illegal private tutoring that forces students to pay, ours is free. With that in mind, most of the students that come to our activities have no ability to financially afford the private tutoring being offered by other teachers. Our stand is solid and a no-brainer – economic status should never be a hindrance for one to acquiring quality education. Through our program, we have maintained a 95% completion rate. In addition, one of our students emerged position 2 on a standardized education district mock exam beating the other 8,000 students. In addition, we cherish the moments we spent together exploring faith.

Academic Innovation Cont'

Teacher Training

The teacher education system in Malawi has a lot of gaps. The majority of the teachers present in public schools need to strengthen their skills, but there are no resources for that and Rays of Hope steps in to help. In the past quarter, we have trained 4,153 teachers across the 242 primary schools.

Our Presence in Thyolo

Early this year, we grew our teacher skills strengthen to Thyolo district – a rural location with hard to reach areas. We are working in 30 primary schools increasing our total teachers' reach to 4153 across Zomba, Mchinji, Ntchisi, Blantyre Urban, and Blantyre Rural. One encouraging development in this new district is that 90% of the schools use their own resources to trickle-down our teacher trainings to teachers who did not attend our sessions.

Child Driven Club

One of the key activities we do with the teacher training program is that wherever we introduce it, we also establish groups of students called Child Driven Clubs. Teachers are the ones that provide support to these groups even though one of their tasks is to check on the teachers' performance. We learned that one Child Driven Club bought a school uniform for one of the needy students in their group.

Our Model is Spreading

With our resources, we cannot be in every school and train every teacher in a particular district. However, one of the education advisors surprised us. He asked to attend one of our series of training even though his zone was not the targetted one. After the training, he took the learnings with him and trained all the teachers in his area. He supervises 14 schools. This speaks to the value of our interventions.



90%

...of schools use their funds to trickle-down our trainings



Teacher training - Bt rural

Academic Inclusion

Secondary school in Malawi is arguably not 'free'. They removed tuition fees but the associated costs for one to access the education is unbearably high to the majority of the students. This program closes this gap. We provide financial and non-financial resources for one to get secondary education such as the provision of bursaries, and coaching as detailed below.

5

**students off to
university**

An opportunity for raw talent

As we strive to support 300 high school students with school tuition, we have also started channeling needy students with special talents, such as sports from within Blantyre to our academy. This quarter we have managed to get two students from local secondary schools. The two are basketball players who are expected to represent the country Malawi in zone 5 Africa games in August this year. Local Malawian sports are known to be occupied by athletes who failed to complete school, however, this becomes a problem when the career ends.

Study Circles

We have realized that some of our students were not doing well because they do not have a chance to do their studies in their homes. School ends when they leave their campuses until the next day.

As one way to make sure no one is left behind in this initiative, we have created study groups in those secondary schools. Students have agreed to help each other by conducting academic discussions and share school materials.

Economic Integration

The unemployment rate in Malawi is very high. Despite the availability of some jobs, the majority of the employed are underpaid. Unfortunately, the youth faces the most difficulty to acquire jobs that align with their skill sets. As a result, they are stuck in their homes and unproductive. This program provides economic independence alternatives to youth through business training and capital investment.

Business training and loans

40 new local youth entrepreneurs have been recruited for business capacity building and training. The training is happening in Blantyre with a focus on the development of the existing business. After the training, the most passionate youth with potential business ideas will have the privilege to access loans to boost their businesses. In this quarter, we focused on business planning and business profile development because the youth started businesses without proper planning and strategy. We believe that this training is going to transform the way the youth run their businesses.

Three more Village Savings Groups added

Our Village Saving Groups are growing in numbers, and this quarter, we have established three VSLs. Our target is to establish 20 VSLs and we have 15 groups that are operational. The economic integration program is perfectly designed to cultivate a saving culture among the youth as a resource for entrepreneurship.

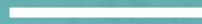
Partnership with Beehive Social Enterprise

We have gone into a partnership with an excellent institution called Beehive Social Enterprise. They offer vocational skills training to youth in tailoring, solar energy engineering, computer technology and more. We will be sending our youth to their programs at a reduced fee.



**operational village
saving groups**

Impact Story





Name

Beatrice Thavera

Age

18

Impact Story

From Afterschool Tutoring to University

Beatrice Thavera is 18 years old, born in 2004 at Chambe health center in Mulanje district. She is the second born daughter in a family of three. She comes from a humble background – her father is a tailor, but became absent in their lives at a tender age. Beatrice and her siblings were raised by a single mother who supports her family by selling doughnuts around the township.

She joined our programs in 2016 when she was only in grade seven. True to our mission, we provided the needed support so that Beatrice could excel in her studies. Despite the economic challenges they faced as a family, she worked hard and got into high school on our scholarship attending Zingwangwa Secondary School. One of the public descent high schools in the district.

We continued to support Beatrice throughout her secondary school bid until she graduated because her mother's business could not support her education wholly. She stayed faithful on our scholarship, working hard in her studies. She took the grade 12 national standardized examinations and passed with amazing grades.

When she graduated from secondary school, she became a tutor in our afterschool initiative – sharing her story to inspire other kids. Now, she is admitted to the University of Malawi (Chancellor College) to study Bachelor of Arts in Theology. She is still serving as a tutor in Chilomoni as she is waiting to report for school this summer.

It is so exciting to witness a life has been changed from a primary school student all the way to university. Rays of Hope celebrates this model. When we just started, we had tutors coming from different backgrounds, now we are having tutors from our own system and community such as Beatrice.

Quarter Highlights



Field Visit - MUST

Quarter Highlights

Educational Visit to MUST

In the past quarter, we organized a field visit to the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST). This was done as one way of including experiential learning, expanding on our science emphasis in the afterschool activities. The trip was organized to help the learners appreciate careers in science and to stir them to aim for greater heights. More than 600 learners from Machinjiri and Chilomoni afterschool centers went on the trip accompanied by their teachers, tutors, and some staff members of Rays of Hope.

When we arrived on campus, the learners had a tour, which lasted for approximately two hours. The tour guides helped the learners appreciate the school's exquisite library, cafeteria, dormitories, and the courses offered at this university. Having toured the university, the learners proceeded to play some games with learners from Goliati L.E.A primary school. As per tradition, the boys played football, and the girls, netball. Unfortunately, they lost both matches. During matches, tutors took turns to share their faith journeys with the students. Despite the loss, the experience they had on the field visit – conversations and the tour was such a huge win to be celebrated.

We cannot get enough of the individual experiences of the students from this trip. Every day they bring up memories of this trip and try so hard to connect their daily classroom work to some of the courses offered at MUST and God. It has become a source of inspiration and motivation to work hard in class and we look forward to more educative and fun adventures in the future.

Watch video highlights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9mhnEh4Wdc>



Beauty & Hair dressing training

Quarter Highlights

Vocational training in progress



to complete our beauty and hair dressing training

Our vocational training participants are close to their finishing line. Nine young women from different areas around Blantyre committed to beauty and hairdressing training under our Economic Integration program. Due to lack of school funds and employment opportunities, many youths have no prospects for economic independence.

Through the Economic Integration program, we are making efforts to make sure the youth become economically independent. We visited the Yamikani beauty and hairdressing training center in Blantyre to do an assessment of how our participants are doing. The training ends in August this year and we are long waiting for their graduation.

Our hope is that these young women become pioneers for change in their own communities. We were excited to hear most of them aspiring to open hair-dressing training centers in their communities when the training is over. And they would want to inspire young girls to be hard working. Such are the stories that motivate us to continue looking for transformative ways to nurture the lives of these youth.

Community, Advocacy & Partnerships

The Day of an African Child

Rays of Hope took marked the Day of an African Child to advocate for inclusive education for disadvantaged children in Malawi on June 16th 2022. We joined hands with the government through the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social welfare in organizing an indoor event on the day of African child commemoration. Our *Pamodzi for Inclusive Education in South East Africa* team voiced on giving equal rights to learners with special needs. This was done through a speech from a Rays of Hope representative and the distribution of IEC materials. Patrons for children and chiefs of Lilongwe were invited to this event and it is our hope for them to carry our voice back to their communities.

We did not stop there, we went on to support an outdoor event in Zomba. This event was organized by the Ministry to give confidence to the learners with special needs. We provided food and refreshments to all the learners present in this congregation.

Rays of Hope together with Fount for Nations, Shule Direct, and Kesho Kenya are implementing a program using advocacy to speak for the gaps that exist in providing education to learners with special needs. A unique piece to this program is the online data dashboard designed to inform policy makers to respond to the gaps.

Visit the app

<https://pamodzi4inclusive.org>

Team Update

True to our commitment and values, we keep each other accountable. In view of the ended second quarter, Rays of Hope held a fruitful quarterly review meeting with the whole team. We convened 30 of 43 team members from all six educational districts for two days in Thyolo from 21 – 22 July.

Each team presented its program goals, successes, challenges as well as mitigation strategies. At the end of the meeting, the team developed and documented action plans aimed at improving implementation in the next quarters. These convenings help us to deliver quality programs to the communities we committed to serve. In addition, the meetings help us to strengthen our bonds with each other.





Q2 review meeting in Thyolo

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 –
lifetime
opportunities!

- Our Model is Holistic -



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

NAME: PATIENCE
SCHOOL: RAYS OF HOPE ACADEMY
CLASS: FORM TWO
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
YEAR: 2022

COLLEGE OF ENGLISH
A4

Quarterly Goals



Get Grade 12 Examination Center status with the Malawi National Examinations Board.



Enroll 20 new students in grade 9 to have a complete high school for the first time!



Support 10th Grade student towards their National Standardised Tests.



Employ and groom new teachers, adding forces towards the next academic year.

Our efforts in this quarter

Update on our goals

First, we managed to file for an application with the Malawi National Examinations Board (MANEB) to grant us the examination center. Everything looks good – we just need to wait. Second, the school academic year starts in September, and we hope to attract enough students for grade 9, since we have not completed an academic year yet. Third, all the 10th graders are now ready to take their national standardized tests – we ask for your prayers. Fourth, we have grown the Academy team with two more teachers. We will give an update of the team in the next quarter report.

10th Grade National Standardized Exams close by

We have been busy preparing our 10th graders who are expected to sit for Junior certificate examinations (JCE) later this month through the month of August. Apart from administering normal classes, our staff prepared mock exams followed by intensive revision sessions and group discussions. We are doing this to instill confidence in our candidates. Our desire is to maintain a 100% pass rate record in the national exams this year.

A promising group of graphic designers

We are one of the few schools that offer electives geared toward career preparation. One of the courses we offer is graphic designing. The first graphic designing class is making encouraging progress. We started teaching 11th graders considering their basic knowledge of computers. The students are taught two approaches to make sure they make the best use of their skills in the industry. First, they are taught the technical skills of graphic design and how they can approach the profession as a business. We aim at equipping our students with the skills and knowledge necessary for them to survive the 21st-century digital demands. To our credit, we look poised to achieve this goal.



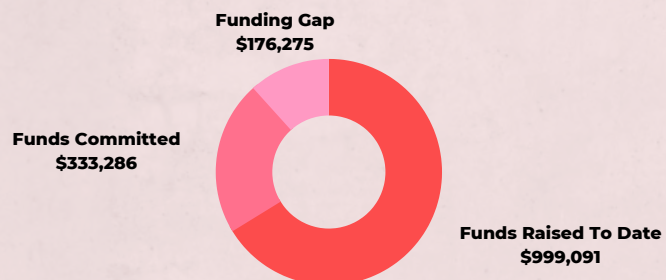
There are few female graphic designers in Malawi and Etta Kaliwo is one of them.

Financial Summary



BUDGET UPDATE

For the year 2022, our budget was capped at US\$1,508,652. We are looking great at the moment, but we have a funding gap of 11.7%.



INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	MWK	USD
From Foundations and Individuals	799,273,137.64	999,091.42
=	799,273,137.64	999,091.42
EXPENSES		
Program	336,197,787.59	420,247.23
Administrative and Personnel	71,937,418.62	89,921.77
=	408,135,206.21	510,169.01
ASSETS		
Furniture	1,257,150.00	1,571.43
Equipment	2,985,000.00	3,731.25
Motorcycle & Vehicles	2,950,000.00	3,687.50
Land & Building (after valuation)	208,000,000.00	260,000.00
=	215,192,150.00	269,989.68



Connect With Us

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