



2024
QUARTER 1
REPORT



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From the Executive Director

A World Bank study records that Sub-Saharan Africa has 90 percent of learning poverty. This is the percentage of 10-year-old children who cannot read and understand a simple story. Malawi's recent study shows that the country's learning poverty is at 87 percent.

This is a crisis. One would give up. Not us!

Mother Teresa once said, and I quote, "I never looked at the masses as my responsibility. I can only love one person at a time. So I began. I picked up one person. Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person, I wouldn't have picked up forty-two thousand."

It sounds like our story. We picked the first 40 kids to serve. Those 40 kids have turned to 352,000 children! If we did not pick up the first 40 kids, I believe 352,000 children would not have been picked." You are part of this story.

Our highlight this quarter is that we have signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education to roll out the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) in 48 new schools. The approach works! We have seen 760 students in two schools starting to read and numerate - thanks to TaRL!

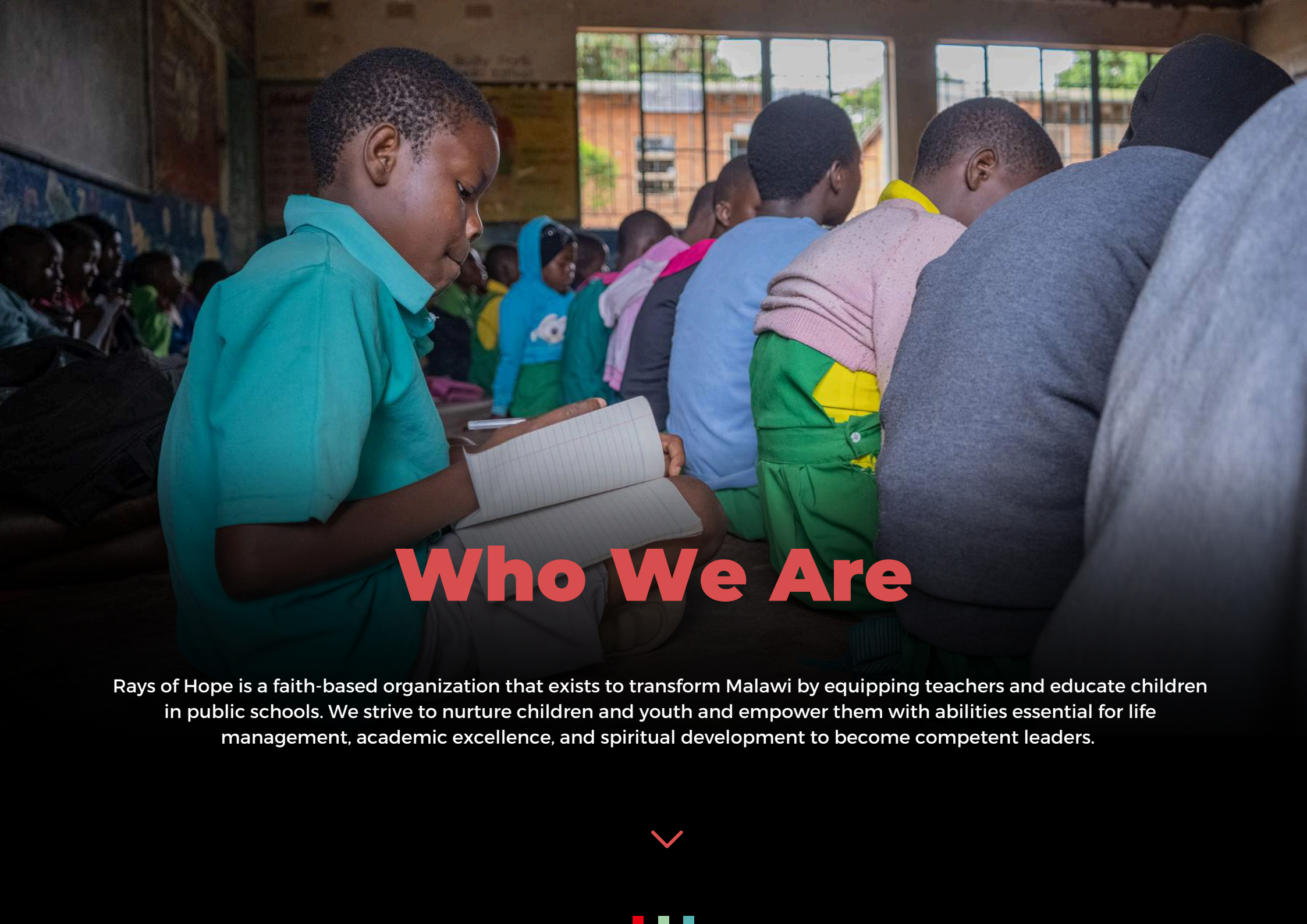
In addition, we just created 63 new communities of practice for teachers in the Blantyre Urban Educational district, each representing a primary school. Thousands of teachers are at our service!

It is impossible to do this work without your support!

God bless your generosity!

Willie Mpasuka
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Who We Are

Rays of Hope is a faith-based organization that exists to transform Malawi by equipping teachers and educate children in public schools. We strive to nurture children and youth and empower them with abilities essential for life management, academic excellence, and spiritual development to become competent leaders.





Vision

Every Child and Youth access transformative education.



Mission

To equip teachers and educate students.

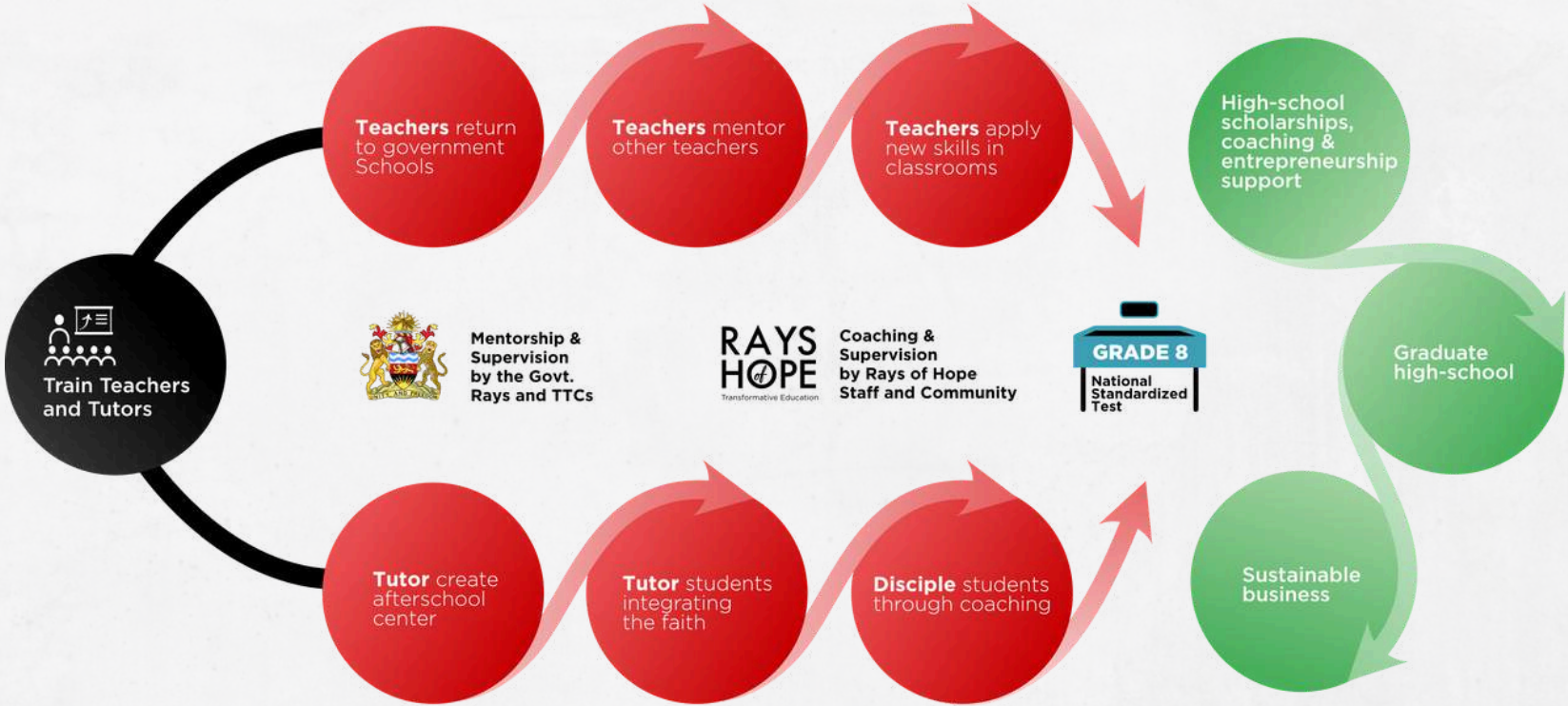


Values

Create, Value Community,
Commit, Uphold Morality, Be
Transparent, Innovate



OUR MODEL



APPROACH | GOALS

At Rays of Hope Malawi, our program approaches are the driving force behind our mission and define our main programs. Each year, we set specific, measurable goals for each program to track our impact effectively. In the first quarter of 2024, we've made significant progress, laying the groundwork to achieve our set goals for the year.



ACADEMIC INNOVATION

Train 7,000 teachers in 7 education districts.

Implement TaRL in 48 primary schools in BT urban and BT rural.

Run after-school programs across 12 primary schools to support 1500 children.

Maintain 95% primary school completion rate among the 12 targeted primary schools in Blantyre.



ACADEMIC INCLUSION

Grant 380 secondary scholarships to underprivileged students.

Host coaching and mentoring activities for 300 students.

Attain a 90% pass rate for national exams in both 10th and 12th grades.

Open a design studio at Ray of Hope Academy focussing on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)



ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Providing Entrepreneurial Opportunities to 200 Young People..

Provide capital to 10 innovative enterprise ideas from ideation to an actual business.

Support the Incubation of Five Youth Business Groups.



MILESTONES

What we have achieved in this quarter

6,661

teachers trained and mentored in 8 educational districts.

219

Secondary school students remained in school through the bursary program.

52

youths supported with livelihood skills, Business Management and Vocational skills.

1,290

Learners served in afterschool program who hail from 10 different primary schools in Blantyre.

203

Secondary school students from Blantyre engaged in various mentorship and coaching activities.

3

youth business ideas identified for business startup loans opportunity.

48

targeted public primary schools are using Tarl approach with guidance from Rays of Hope.

15

youth saving groups served monitored and mentored through coaching and supervision.



Academic Innovation
**Thinking differently to provide
education**





In this reporting period, spanning from January to March, the children of Rays of Hope demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination. They engaged wholeheartedly in tutoring sessions, spiritual growth initiatives, empowerment programs, home visits, and recreation activities. Their enthusiasm and commitment enabled us to successfully execute 99% of our planned activities. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication of our students and the unwavering support of our stakeholders.



Tutoring

(After-school Initiative Progress)

Program Reach and Participation:

Over the past three months, Rays of Hope has served an average of 1300 participants from 12 primary schools across Blantyre. Our tutoring services, coupled with Bible studies, mentorship, and nutritious lunch meals provided by team, have seen enthusiasm from learners, resulting in an impressive 98% overall attendance rate. This high attendance reflects the determination of the learners to excel in their studies and motivates our tutors to deliver their best performance in supporting their academic journey.

Continuous Assessment and Academic Preparation:

Recognizing the importance of academic preparation, continuous assessments were a regular practice across all camps. Junior class participants received daily class assessments and weekend homework assignments, aimed at instilling study habits and preparing grades 7 and 8 students for their national standardized test (PSLC). Our goal is to see 90% of participants complete primary school with outstanding grades and secure placement in public secondary schools.

Home Support and Educational Resources:

Acknowledging the challenges faced by learners from homes lacking essential educational materials, Rays of Hope provided printed math and science study books to facilitate home-based learning. Regular home visits provided an opportunity to engage with parents and guardians, encouraging them to provide additional support to keep learners focused on their education.

Faith Integration and Prayer Development:

This quarter, we focused on teaching our learners how to pray and structure their prayers effectively. Remarkably, we have seen increased number of students become curious and inquisitive about prayer. We believe that our faith in God is the cornerstone of our success. Bible stories and verses were used to ensure spiritual growth is woven into all our afterschool activities.

Empowerment Sessions for Senior Classes:

Our senior classes benefited from sessions on adolescence, human rights, and life management skills. These sessions equipped our students with the knowledge and confidence to navigate life's challenges, grounded in strong Christian values.





Rays of Hope, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, has continued its steadfast commitment to raising teaching standards across Malawi through our teacher training initiative. This quarter saw significant strides in our efforts to foster a culture of continuous improvement among educators through a series of mentorship and monitoring activities. The enthusiastic participation and proactive engagement of the teachers in these programs have been highly encouraging.



Teacher Training

(Teacher Skills Strengthening Activities)

Functional Mentorship and Peer Learning Communities

This quarter marked a dynamic shift in how teachers engage with each other through intensified learning visits. We successfully established 63 new teacher groups, which actively participated in reciprocal school visits under the supervision of mentors and inspectors trained specifically for this initiative. These visits not only facilitated a platform for peer-to-peer learning but also allowed teachers to observe and adopt effective practices from neighboring schools.

Monitoring and Supervision Efforts

Alongside peer visits, our team and community stakeholders, including primary education advisors, executed 35 joint monitoring exercises across Blantyre Rural and Thyolo District, completing 21 and 14 sessions respectively. These collaborative efforts aim to enhance accountability and improve educational quality. Concurrently, 90 schools in these areas received thorough supervision and monitoring. The activities included targeted coaching and mentorship for teachers and school administrators to reinforce the application of practical skills and drive effective educational practices.

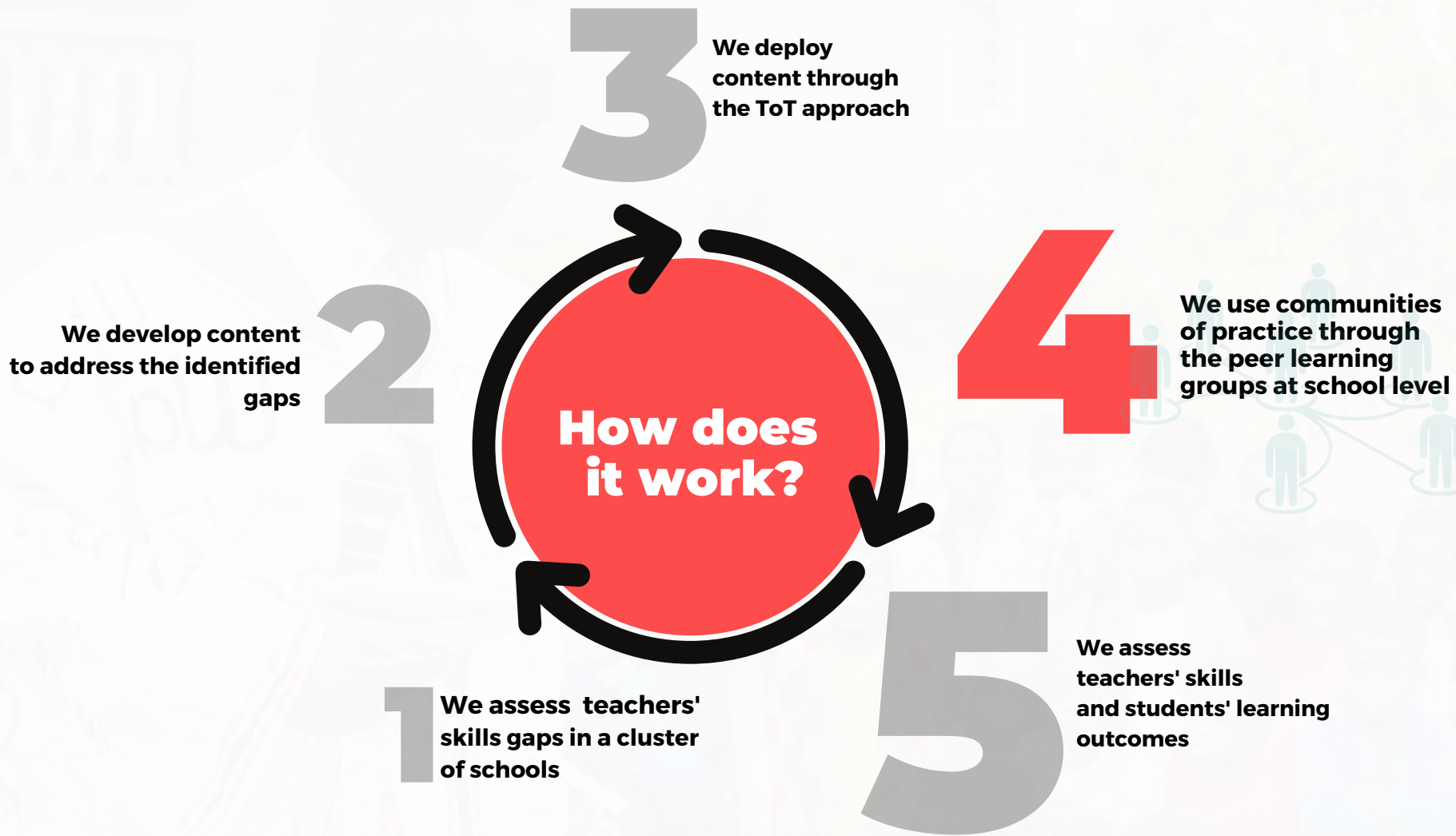
Tarl Integration

Rays of Hope partnered with the Blantyre District Education Office to extend the Tarl Pilot program to all 172 primary schools. We held strategic discussions culminating into signing the Memorandum of Understanding and set off the adoption of the model by training teachers in public schools. In March, Tarl was introduced in 48 schools, with plans for further expansion to the rest of the schools in the near future subject to funds availability. This joint effort underscores our commitment to enhancing education district-wide. We believe that teaching at the right level approach will accelerate the learning outcomes of learners in the districts.

Empowering Child-Driven Clubs

This quarter's exciting development was the assessment and support of child-driven clubs within the schools visited. It was inspiring to see students taking active roles in governance and initiating change within their school environments. We engaged with 180 teachers and 270 student leaders, providing them with structured mentorship and reflection sessions. These sessions empowered them to report on issues affecting their peers and any misconduct by teachers or administration staff.







Learning for a learner;
**A vibrant teacher network
for better teaching**





Academic Inclusion

**Removing financial and
Nonfinancial barriers among
deserving students**





New students
On board



Scholarships

(No student is Left Behind)

In our journey to remove financial and non-financial barriers hindering access to quality education for students from humble backgrounds, our officers planned and executed various activities. Our primary goal was to support 380 students through mentorships and bursaries. Engaging with parents was also integral, fostering a collaborative environment within the schools we support.

Program development/update

With the establishment of a new student database, our officers seized the opportunity during coaching sessions to gather data, meeting the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) requirements. We're pleased to report that the program is running smoothly, thanks to the overwhelming support from the community, ensuring that their children complete their secondary education and increase their chances of university selection.

Learning Circles

We maintained an interactive community among the youth who are on our scholarships through the learning circles. These are groups of students in secondary designed to create a community of practice among students to improve their grades. It is so easy to pull these ones off because we have cordial relationships with the schools that are in partnership with us. Regular school visits have become part of our culture, enabling us to monitor the progress of study circles established among our participants. These study circles provide safe spaces for students to support each other academically, with school leadership reinforcing these routines. Remarkably, all study circles are fully functional across all schools.

Building Stronger Communities: Fostering Parental Engagement for Student Success

Amidst the new academic year, our officers convened parental engagement meetings across various schools to enroll new students. The strong turnout of parents signifies the need for our services. Parents were briefed on the program structure, requirements, and their roles in ensuring academic excellence for their children. Importantly, they were given a platform to voice suggestions and concerns, fostering a collaborative partnership. These meetings will continue quarterly throughout the year, ensuring ongoing communication and engagement with parents.

Coaching Mentorship

(Inspiring Academic Excellence and Well-Being)

In further support of our student community, Rays of Hope hosted a mentorship and coaching event in Blantyre, targeting students in day secondary schools. With 200 students in attendance, our officers motivated them to prioritize their education while introducing recruits to the program's operations for their optimal benefit. Encouragement was also extended towards exploring small business ventures to supplement their livelihoods, considering the lack of support from their homes. Spiritual growth was emphasized as a means to develop a character akin to Christ.





Economic Integration

Formal education is not the only way to success



A woman in a floral shirt is standing and presenting to a group of young people seated at long tables in a wood-paneled room. A whiteboard and a projector are visible in the background. The room has a red carpet and orange chairs. The text "Coaching the youth Towards personal growth and development" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Coaching the youth
**Towards personal growth
and development**

Youth Entrepreneurship

(Empowering the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs)

In the face of daunting economic challenges and soaring unemployment rates among the youth, Rays of Hope recognizes the urgent need to provide pathways to financial independence. Unfortunately, the persistent devaluation of currency has further compounded these challenges, hindering many young individuals from achieving financial autonomy. Believing firmly in the power of education beyond traditional pathways, we continue our mission to equip youth in Blantyre with the necessary skills and resources to thrive as entrepreneurs.

During this reporting period, Rays of Hope engaged with 32 youths, offering comprehensive training in entrepreneurship and vocational skills. These sessions delved into crucial topics such as setting SMART business goals, business idea formation, mentorship, global market penetration, communication, marketing strategies, and technology utilization in business. Moreover, we addressed the resilience needed to navigate through global pandemics, environmental shifts, and financial crises.

Nurturing Profitable Talent

Our vocational scholarship program has seen remarkable success, as participants have completed their fashion and design training with support from Rays of Hope. Witnessing the transformation from despair to empowerment is truly heartening. The once tearful greetings have been replaced by radiant smiles, reflecting the newfound confidence and optimism among these youth. Now equipped with practical skills, five individuals who undertook tailoring training are embarking on their entrepreneurial journey, stitching their way to a brighter future.



Fostering Business Growth: Incubating Youth-Owned Enterprises

In addition to training, Rays of Hope is committed to providing ongoing support to youth entrepreneurs. Through our business incubation process, we are dedicated to assist budding business owners in various sectors, including carpentry, hairdressing, welding, and printing. We have received promising business plans and identified core needs, signaling the potential for growth and sustainability. As we continue to explore avenues for financial support, we aim to secure funds to bolster these services.





Rising Above Adversity

Impact Story

Sylvia, a young and determined lady from Thyolo, Khonjeni, faced the harsh realities of life with no skills or means to support herself. Without the support needed to pursue higher education, she ventured into various retail businesses to sustain herself and her family. However, an unexpected pregnancy and abandonment by the child's father derailed her efforts. Her business crumbled, and life became a bitter struggle as she longed for a way to support herself, her family, and her innocent child.

A year later, she joined our youth entrepreneurship program. However, another challenge arose: she had no place to stay in Blantyre. With unwavering faith, one of our camp officers felt moved to help and gave away a room in her house for Sylvia. Joining the vocational training in tailoring, fashion, and design, along with business training and coaching sessions, she eagerly embraced the opportunity. For six months, Sylvia immersed herself in the world of sewing, making every stitch valuable and refining her skills until she finally graduated from the program in March this year.

The transformation was remarkable. She returned home with a bundle of hope, knowing she was a different person and seeing herself not as a symbol of shame but as a victor. Once seen as a symbol of struggle, Sylvia became an inspiration for many girls in her community. Armed with her newfound skills and determination, she sew clothes for people in her community for a fee. Through the business training and skills she mastered during her time with Rays of Hope, she successfully attracted orders for school uniforms, dresses, skirts, and trousers.

Despite awaiting a tailoring starter kit from Rays of Hope and using borrowed equipment, her entrepreneurial spirit has flourished. She now supports herself and her family, proving that with the right tools and a bit of hope, anything is possible.

We look forward to supporting her dream of becoming a certified fashion designer and successful businesswoman, continuing to showcase the impact our program has on the youth.



Advocacy / Partnership

We believe in Collaboration

Inclusive Education.





Empowering the community;
**Champions for Inclusive
Education**

PIESEA

PARTNERSHIP

 RAYS
OF HOPE

Inclusive Education Advocacy - PIESEA

150 physically challenged learners have been identified and brought back to class

Our Inclusive Education team embarked on a series of activities aimed at celebrating and deploying inclusive education champions within their communities. These events, held primarily in March across Blantyre, Mchinji, Zomba, and Mponera, were a culmination of a two-year journey supported by Education Out Loud's financing project. The initiative, focused on promoting inclusive education through advocacy, awareness, and policy implementation, empowered dedicated community members who voluntarily participated in our inclusive education sessions.

Pronounced Impact

The inauguration events highlighted the profound impact of these community members who translated their training into tangible actions within their communities. Through their efforts, children facing physical challenges found their way back to school, while others mobilized support from churches and stakeholders to provide impairment support aids for learners with disabilities.

Additionally, our team engaged in high-level discussions with policymakers to advocate for fair financing and the inclusion of specialist teachers in primary schools across our targeted communities. We look forward to immersive collaborative national-level out-roll activities to be conducted as the initiative continues.



RAYSOFACADEMY

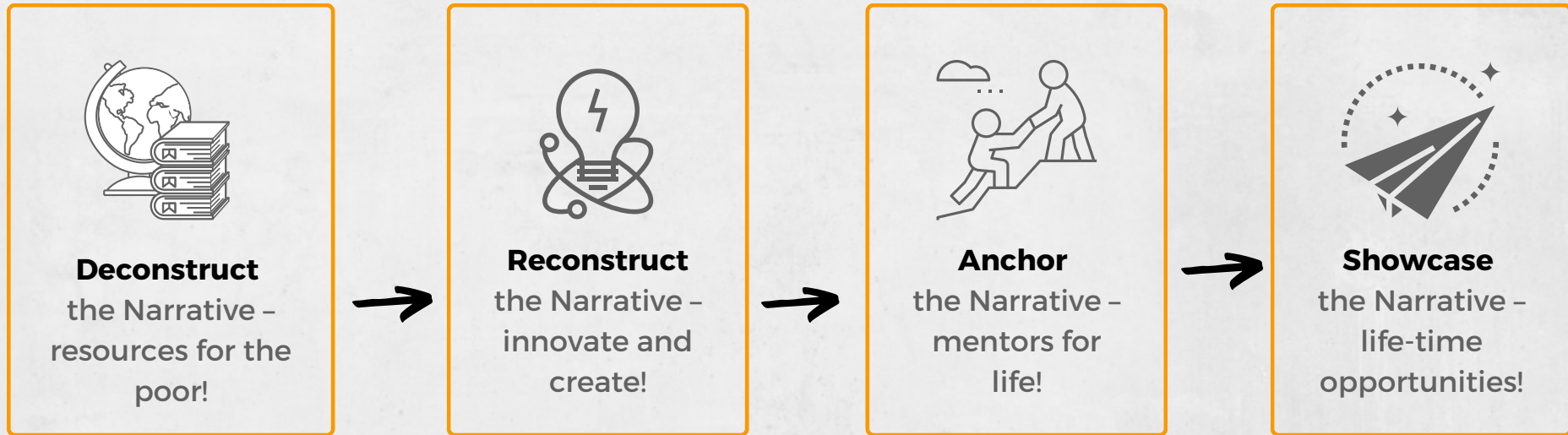


RAYS OF HOPE ACADEMY

BRIGHT MINDS BRIGHT FUTURE



The model



ABOUT

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

RoHAc

Bringing Quality
Education
To the minority

GOALS

Implement Targeted Academic Support for 10/12 graders in preparation for national examination

Expose students to technological innovation concepts to stimulate their interests in sciences

Foster Holistic Development
Implementing comprehensive extracurricular programs aimed at nurturing students' physical, social, and emotional well-being, including sports, arts, and character-building activities.

Maintain 100% passrate in all classes.

Achieve 90% passrate in grade 10 and grade 12 national standardised examinations

Enrollment Overview:

During this term, the academy hosted 86 students distributed across our four academic years. The Form 4 group, which is gearing up for the MSCE examinations, comprises the largest cohort with 28 students. The younger classes show promising growth in enrollment numbers, setting a solid foundation for the school's future.

Academic Performance:

The academic performance this term shows progress and areas needing attention. While the senior Form 4 students achieved a notable 78% pass rate, demonstrating their preparedness for the upcoming national exams, the junior classes, particularly Form 1, are lagging with a 45% pass rate. This disparity has prompted targeted academic interventions. Most times secondary entry students tend to adjust slowly as they face new challenging concepts. Our dedicated teachers are eager to let every student blossom to shine with good grades in the new term.

Initiatives and Development:

This term saw the implementation of several strategic educational initiatives aimed at enhancing student learning outcomes. We introduced weekend and remedial classes to push pass rates above 80% across all forms. Additionally, our participation in a school cluster involving 10 other schools allows us to harmonize examinations and benchmark our performance at both a cluster and national level. In technology education, we continued to develop our design studio, now featuring specialized courses in programming and design, aimed at fostering tech literacy among our students.

Faith and Values:

The spiritual development of our students is as crucial as their academic growth. This term included a **SCOM** retreat, which provided students with an opportunity to deepen their faith and engage in reflection, reinforcing the Christian values that are central to our educational philosophy.

Rays of Hope Academy remains committed to its mission of providing an education that fosters academic excellence and moral integrity. The initiatives we have set in motion this term are crucial steps toward not only improving our educational standards but also ensuring that our students develop into capable and ethical leaders. We anticipate building on these successes and addressing any challenges as we move forward into the next term.

Financial Update

For the year 2024, our budget is capped at

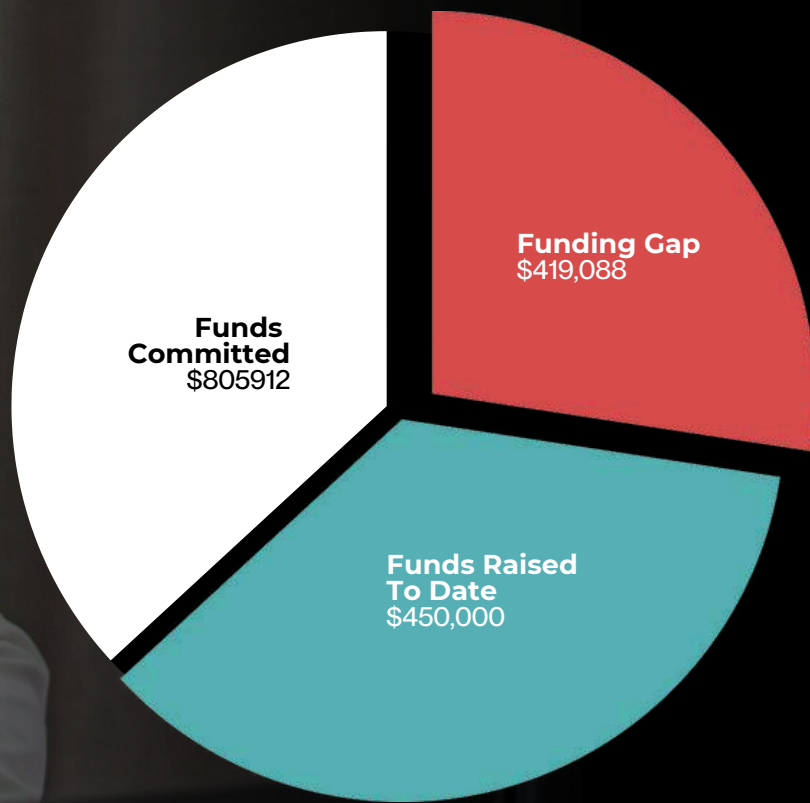
USD

1,675,000

MWK

2,931,250,000



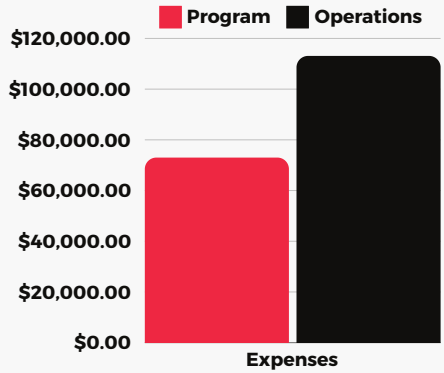


FINANCIAL UPDATE



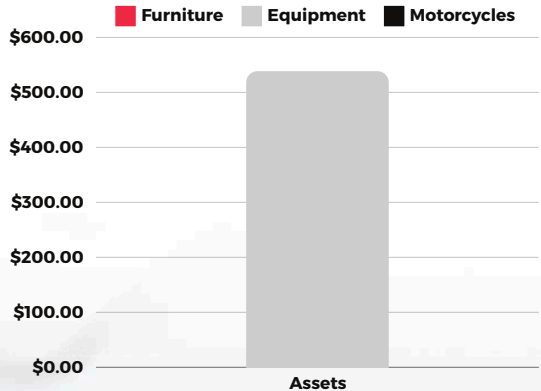
Expenses

| | MK | USD\$ |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Programs | 127,750,000.00 | 73,000 |
| Operations | 197,926,029.78 | 113,100.59 |
| Total Expenditure | 325,676,029.78 | 186,100.59 |



Assets

| | MK | USD\$ |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Furniture | - | - |
| Equipment | 942,400.00 | 538.51 |
| Motorcycles | - | - |
| Total Assets | 942,400.00 | 538.51 |





Connect with us

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