



2024 QUARTER 2 REPORT



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From the Executive Director

Transitions are unforgettable episodes, some exciting, but others painful. I have experienced both.

I vividly recall when I got my admission letter to start university in 2004. I could not wait to break the news to my family, especially my dad.

When he got the news, the bewilderment on his face was apparent. Would you blame him? No. This was the first time it happened to any of his children. Also, less than 10 percent of the population had a college degree in Malawi. The news went viral that Willie transitioned to university.

Four years later, he attended my graduation as I transitioned out of college to look for a job! This time, he was hyper-excited. Then, I broke the news that I was going into nonprofit work. The mood changed; he was sad. Ministry work does not pay. "I thought you would help me support your relatives (since it was easy for a college graduate to get a job)." He confided.

Regardless, I followed my calling to start Rays of Hope. A nonprofit that serves children and youth in under-resourced communities. Yes, it does not financially pay, but the fulfillment is unmatched. I sleep peacefully, knowing that hundreds of youth access high school education, thousands of teachers find meaning in their careers, and hundreds of thousands of children can read, write, and count. Seeing children and youth from under-resourced communities transition into university graduates is heart-warming!

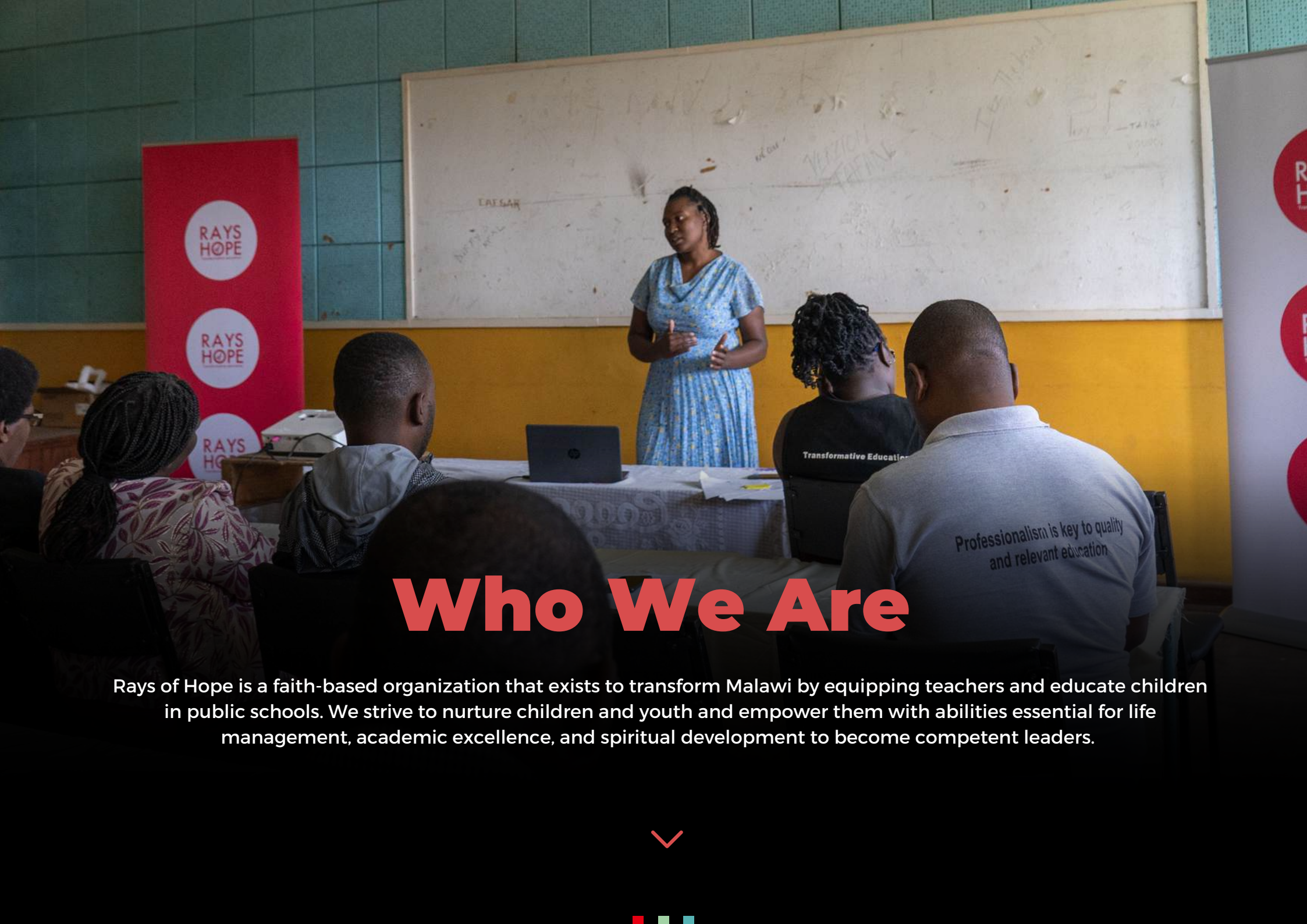
Again, all this work is impossible without your support. Kindly, receive our appreciation as you read this report.

God bless you!

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.

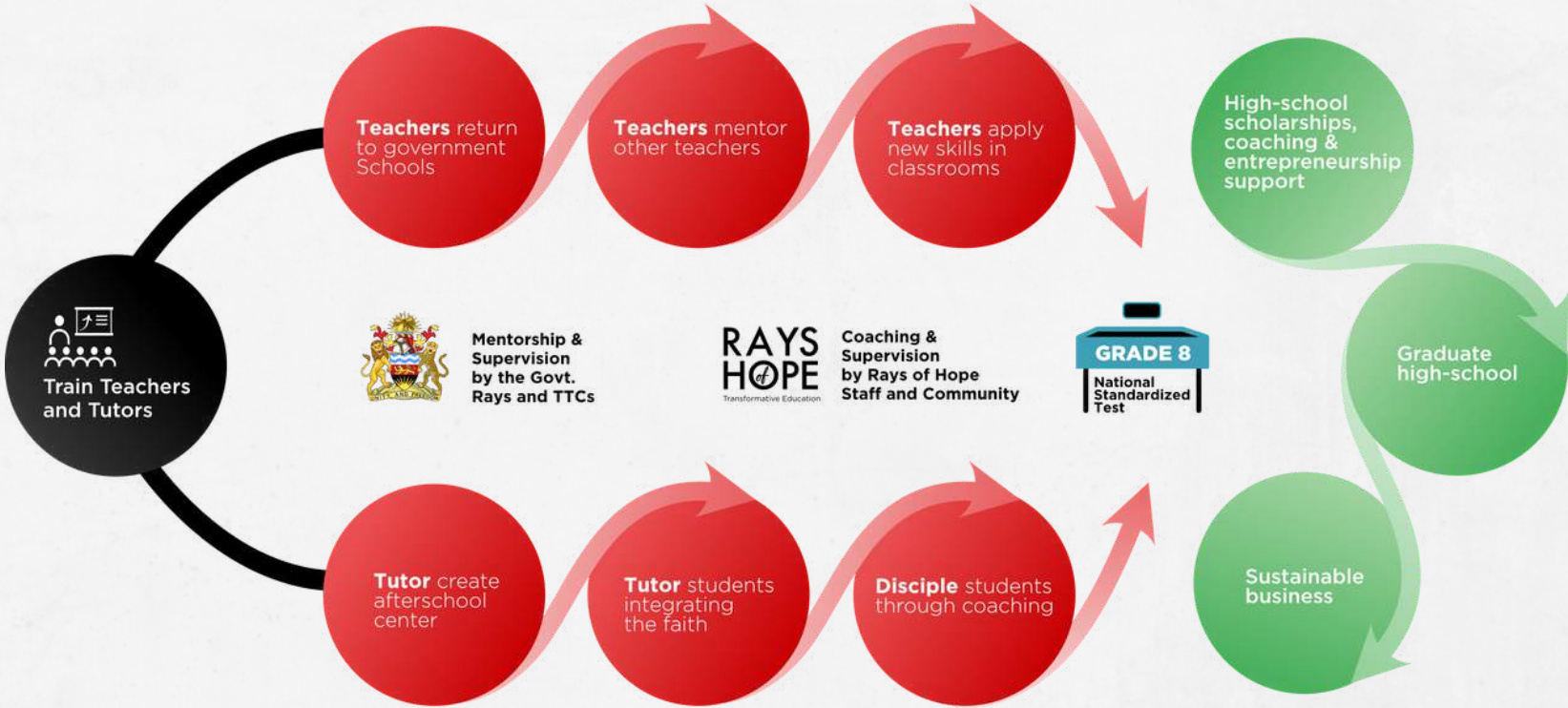


Values

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

5,308

Teachers trained and mentored in 8 educational districts.

1,261

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

85%

Grade 8 Mock Exam pass rate in the afterschool program.

251

Students mentored and coached on academic excellence

350

Secondary school students remained in school through the bursary program.

6

youths supported with tailoring business start-up equipment and materials.

160

Youths trained and mentored in entrepreneurship and business acumen.

15

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



Academic Innovation

**Thinking differently to provide
education**

Tutoring | Teacher Training



Tutoring

(After-school Initiative Progress)



85%

**Grade 8 learners in the
afterschool program passed
Mock Exams.**

In this reporting period, our afterschool program continued to support learners in excelling academically. 1,261 learners across 10 public primary schools in Blantyre were engaged in various educational activities. These included debates, spiritual growth sessions, regular homework and assessments, and the daily provision of lunch meals.

Tutoring

Rays of Hope has consistently provided remedial classes, one-on-one tutoring, and weekly assessments to ensure students receive the individualized attention they require. Special emphasis was placed on grade 8 learners preparing to complete primary school. Intensive assessments were conducted to acclimate students to exam conditions and foster mental preparedness.

In the lead-up to the national standardized tests, grade 8 learners participated in mock exams. Of the 214 participants, 171 students passed, resulting in a commendable pass rate of 85%. This marks a notable 2% increase from the previous year's pass rate of 83%. While this progress is significant, our goal remains to achieve a 95% pass rate in the national standardized test held in June. We remain confident in our learners' abilities to succeed in the exam.

Spiritual Growth

Every Tuesday, we dedicated time to spiritual growth sessions at all our tutoring camps involving Bible reading, quizzes, and inspirational storytelling. These activities were deliberately programmed in response to concerns raised by parents during our engagements. Many parents worried about their children's behavior and requested our assistance in instilling discipline through biblical counsel. The sessions have been instrumental in addressing these concerns and fostering a more disciplined and respectful attitude among the learners.





Photo Caption:

Afterschool program participants anticipating a burning pan of Mandasi.

Inspiring Children **Beyond Classroom Walls**

Extracurricular Activities

- **Cookery Session**

An exciting extracurricular activity transformed the tutoring environment into a fun and dynamic space. These sessions ensured full participation from all learners, significantly boosting their confidence in public speaking. Learners were also engaged in a cookery session. Rays of Hope supported the camps with baking resources and learners had fun learning how to bake Mandasi (fritters).

- **Debates**

To inspire public speaking skills among the participants, the team organized debate sessions where various growth and development issues were discussed for both boys and girls. These sessions ensured full participation from all learners, significantly boosting their confidence in public speaking and enhancing their English-speaking skills. The team witnessed constructive arguments and We aim to nurture future leaders who can effectively communicate their ideas to diverse audiences, breaking down prevalent communication barriers in our society.

Photo Caption:

Teaching at the Right Level session in progress: Teachers assessing learner's capabilities basic literacy and numeracy concepts.



Program Developments/ Updates

• TaRL Making its Way Into the Remedial Tutoring Sessions

Rays of Hope has diligently worked to incorporate the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach across all our target public schools. Our commitment to this innovative method extends seamlessly into our afterschool program. As pioneers of TaRL in the country, we are firmly embedding this learning approach into the afterschool initiative's foundation to complement existing efforts. Our tutors went through training on how to run TaRL and created an action plan for the seamless infusion of TaRL practices into their initial tasks.

• Digitisation of Afterschool Program Data

The MEAL department has successfully digitized the afterschool program data, leveraging data collection software and tablet gadgets. This advancement allows program officers to input necessary data directly into the central database. Our team is dedicated to integrating technology in the treatment of data, ensuring accuracy and efficiency. We anticipate that this development will streamline our data collection workflow, enhance data access, and improve analysis, leading to more informed decision-making.



Teacher Training

(Teacher Skills Strengthening Activities)

Teacher Skills Strengthening Efforts in Blantyre

In Blantyre, the team organized training sessions on resource sharing, expressive arts, and peer network management. The Ministry of Education acknowledged our assertion regarding the necessity of ensuring that public primary schools possess essential teaching resources. The inadequacy of such resources in various public schools often hinders teachers' ability to deliver creative lessons. Consequently, 746 teachers have been engaged in developing their skills in resource-making, collaboration initiation, and the importance of community support. We hope that schools will collaborate to overcome common challenges, ensuring that every child has access to quality education. Teachers were also encouraged to incorporate games, Teaching, and Learning Using Locally Available Resources (TALULAR) to address the scarcity of adequate teaching materials.

Monitoring, Supervision and Mentorship

Being true to our model, we always cross cut our programming with collaborative monitoring and supervision activities across all 11 educational districts. All stakeholders have been practically active in working with us supporting our affairs. These exercises aimed to track and appreciate the progress of various skill-strengthening interventions and the peer learning communities. We were pleased to witness teachers sharing best teaching practices to assist their colleagues who face challenges in lesson execution. The functionality of peer learning groups has been notably beneficial, and we continue to provide resources to support these groups. Special thanks to the mentors who have been pivotal in encouraging and guiding teachers to excel in their profession.



746

**teachers have engaged
in skill development to
boost teaching
confidence.**



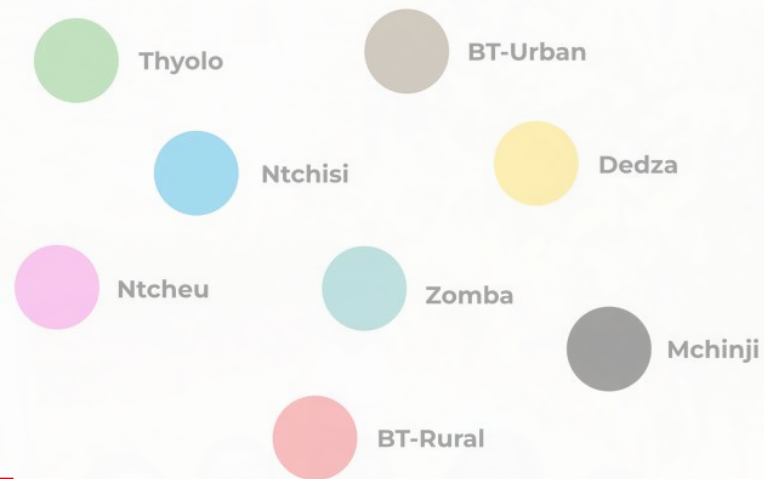


Photo Caption:

Primary school teachers exchanging ideas in resource making.

Resource Sharing

Public primary schools in Blantyre commends resource centres / sharing ideal to addressing resource gaps in the zones.



OUR COMMITMENT

In 2020, we embarked on an ambitious commitment to educate 700 students through teacher training by the year 2027. We are happy to share with you that we have hit our 50 percent mark! Our teacher training initiative is not only training teachers, but it is also improving students' outcomes in their academic journeys. In addition, the teacher training initiative has transformed into a community of practice model, which is an essential tool for teacher supervision, and coaching beyond being a capacity strengthening approach.





62

Teacher active peer learning groups established and operational.

Program Developments/ Updates

- **Establishment of New Peer Learning Groups**

In response to the success observed in Thyolo, Blantyre Rural, and Zomba, Rays of Hope has scaled up the peer learning group approach. During this reporting period, we established 62 peer learning groups in Blantyre Urban, bringing the total to 106 groups with 64 active mentors across Blantyre and Zomba. We have trained 22 lead mentors in leadership skills, and we will continue to work closely with them to support teacher communities. We anticipate significant developments as these groups engage in ethical practices and inspire one another to improve their skills in delivering their best for the interest of the learners.

- **Development of Resource Centres**

The training on resource sharing has led to the creation of 30 resource centres in Blantyre. With the help of learners, these centres have been equipped with materials crafted from locally available resources by collaborative efforts from practicing teachers who have been sharing ideas on effective teaching using resource that are locally at their disposal.



Photo Caption:
Primary school teachers exchanging ideas in participatory teaching methods.



Academic Inclusion

Removing financial and nonfinancial barriers to education among deserving students

Bursaries | Coaching



Scholarships

(No student is Left Behind)



81 new Students
students awarded
financial support

Bursary Initiative

Rays of Hope remains dedicated to providing educational support to secondary school students, ensuring they stay in school and excel academically. In collaboration with bursars from target secondary schools, we identified students facing financial instability, whose passion for education drives them to overcome challenges. This quarter, we welcomed 81 new entries into our program, bringing the total to 350 students across various secondary schools in Blantyre, including students at Rays of Hope Academy. These students, with their resilience and dedication, are the heart of our mission, striving to create a brighter future despite financial hardships.

Community Engagement

This quarter, our engagement efforts focused on strengthening relationships with stakeholders, including government officials from the Ministry of Education and headteachers from partner schools across Blantyre. During a meeting, we addressed program updates, changes, and developments. For new staff members from partner schools, we reorientated on the bursary program's operations, their key roles, and communication channels to ensure a common understanding and cohesion. The meeting also yielded thoughtful feedback and constructive ideas from our partners. These stakeholders play a crucial role in supporting the educational journey of our students, demonstrating the collective effort required to achieve our goals.

We also hosted a key parent's meeting at Chichiri Secondary School Hall. The event welcomed new parents and provided updates on the bursary initiative. Parents engaged in discussions, shared feedback, and exchanged best practices for supporting student success. The meeting highlighted the community's strong commitment to their children's education and underscored the importance of ongoing collaboration to enhance student outcomes.

Coaching Mentorship

(Inspiring Academic Excellence and Well-Being)

Engagement in Coaching Programs

In an effort to support students in staying focused at school, we engaged with 160 students from different secondary schools in Blantyre. Our goal was to address mental health issues and set objectives to overcome the financial challenges they face daily. At an event held at Chichiri Secondary School Hall, representatives from Rays of Hope shared their stories, inspiring the students and encouraging them to lead well-organized lives that open up various opportunities. Additionally, our team offered personalized counseling to students facing difficulties at school or home, especially those in grades 10 and 12 preparing for the 2024 national standardized tests. This strategy created a nurturing environment, prompting students to assist one another for mutual progress.

Promoting Study Collaboration

During our interactions with new students and their bursars, we emphasized the importance of participating in study groups to optimize study time. The new students have been assigned to dedicated study groups under bursars' supervision. We have continued to nurture these collaborations, observing their positive impact over the last three academic years, leading to improved pass rates in both school and national examinations.



160

**Curated
Coaching
Sessions**





CITY OF B

Economic Integration

Formal education is not the only way to success

Business Training | Vocational Training



Youth Entrepreneurship

(Empowering the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs)

Our commitment to expose the youth to profit making skills and opportunities remained still as we continued to engaging with youth groups across Blantyre with various activities. In this reporting period, the youth received various Financial Coaching and Management Trainings, Business Start Up Resources and encouraged to develop a Saving Culture.

Entrepreneurship Skills Training

Moreover, the team managed to attract 67 youths from seven different networks who received comprehensive training in entrepreneurship skills. This program is designed to equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools to start and manage their own enterprises, enhancing their ability to integrate economically into their communities.

Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency in Youth

In the month of June, we achieved notable progress in fostering a savings culture among the youth in Blantyre this quarter. By leveraging our partnership with the district youth office, we engaged with seven officially recognized youth structures. We shared compelling success stories from established saving groups to inspire and motivate new participants. This approach successfully instilled a savings mindset within these youth to establish 7 new YSL groups with an average of 12 member in each group. Moving forward, we will provide continued support to ensure the sustainability and effective operation of the newly formed Youth Savings and Loans (YSLs) groups.



**New YSL Groups
Formed in Blantyre**



Photo Caption:
New fashion design and Tailoring youth celebrate their first craft at John Paul Vocational Training Center.

Vocational Training

Nurturing Youth with Hands on Skills

Vocational Skills Training

This quarter, we awarded scholarships to 14 deserving youths, opening doors for them to gain vocational skills in tailoring and electrical gadget repair, including dish installation. These youths will embark on an intensive 2-3 month training journey at SANWECKA and SAINT JOHN PAUL, our esteemed partners and reputable vocational training centers.

This initiative goes beyond technical training. Our team is gearing up to nurture these youths through mentorship and business training, anticipating their entry into the business world. These comprehensive support systems aim to inspire a ripple effect of positive change, fostering self-sufficiency and economic resilience within our community.

\$2,130 Invested in supporting youth skills

This commitment is demonstrated through a series of targeted initiatives. Six young individuals, who have completed our tailoring training program, have been provided with sewing machinery and start-up resources. This essential equipment enables them to launch their tailoring businesses, marking a significant step towards self-employment and financial independence.

As these young individuals embark on their training, we remain committed to walking alongside them, ensuring they have the resources and guidance needed to succeed.



14

Vocational
Scholarships
Disbursed





Impact Story: **Rising Above Adversity**

At Rays of Hope, we see countless inspiring journeys, but not all are similar. Blessings is a story for this quarter, a young man who demonstrates resilience and determination.

His life took a challenging turn early on following the loss of his parents, leaving him and his sister to navigate life on their own. Blessings became the breadwinner, working tirelessly to have food on the table. Despite these hardships, his thirst for education never wavered.

He joined our afterschool initiative, where he found a sanctuary in our tutoring sessions every day as he waited for the lunch we provided. He worked hard to catch up with his classmates, eventually becoming one of the top 10 students in his class. Under our scholarship, he attended Zingwangwa Secondary School, but the burden of supporting his household grew heavy. To make ends meet, he picked two jobs while in school. He worked as a night security guard and an assistant mechanic on weekends.

Despite his adversity, we are excited to share that Blessings is off to Mzuzu University to study for a bachelor's degree in Physics and Electronic Program! His journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and the support of a community that believes in the potential of every child.

We are proud of Blessings! We are excited for him as he becomes Physicist on our watch! His story reflects our mission, and we invite you to celebrate together for a life transformed.

Blessings Sazuze



Advocacy / Partnership

We believe in Collaboration

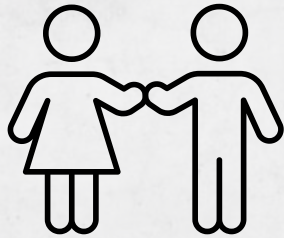


“Access to education shouldn’t be a risk but enjoyable and anxiety-free, from the first step to the last step. I enjoy educating learners about road safety issues.

Mike Kamano
Supritendent - Ndirande
Police



Safe Mobility Campaign; **Learners, Activists for Social Change**



9,181

**learners engaged
in road safety
activities**

Rays of Hope intervened in Blantyre schools to address road accidents involving primary school students. They prioritize safety and education, aiming for children to reach their potential. Partnerships with key stakeholders like the Ministry of Education and the Malawi Road Traffic Police led to an advocacy campaign reaching 9,181 learners.

Road Safety Coaching

Our campaign focused on instilling knowledge in learners about safe road usage and pedestrian safety, inspired by our commitment to protecting children as they craft their own futures. These activities led to the formation of road safety clubs, where selected students were appointed as ambassadors to guide and teach their peers about road safety. We pray that these learners will become messengers of safety within their communities.

Safety Walk

At the end of the quarter, the learners carried their advocacy concerns in style. All five schools conducted safety walks around their communities, singing various road safety songs taught by our officers during several educational sessions throughout the quarter. We are proud that the learners showcased their role as ambassadors, speaking about road safety with knowledge and passion.

In the next quarter, Rays of Hope is geared up to lead road safety surveillance and observation in multiple school areas, together with lead safety ambassadors from the target schools. This activity aims to identify near-school road occurrences and student road usage behavior as a way of evaluating the efforts of the initiative. We believe this exercise will transformatively inform the next chapter of our mission.

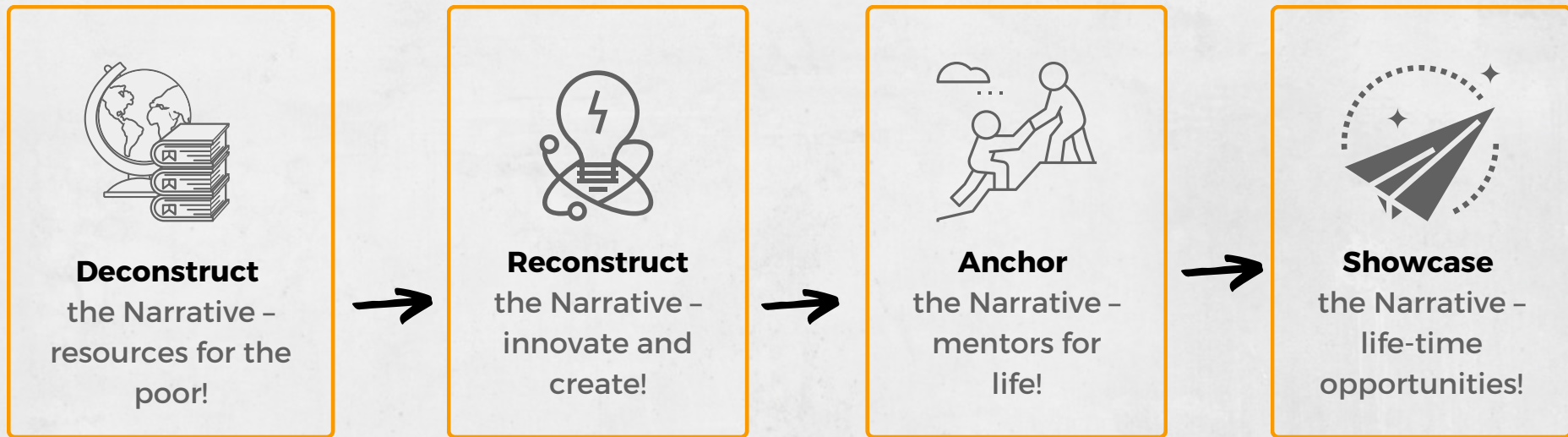


RAYS OF HOPE ACADEMY

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.



Class of 2024: ↗
The second Cohort
Completes a Four-Year
Journey!

GOALS

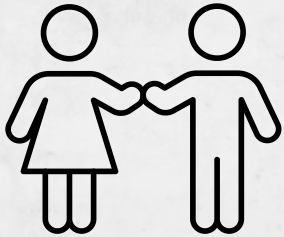
Implement Targeted Academic Support for 10/12 graders in preparation for national examination

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.



80%

**pass rate across all
fourm classes**

Academic Achievements / Grade 12 Graduation

Our students have shown remarkable improvement in their academic performance this term, we believe is a result of initiatives that were put in place in the previous quarter. These efforts were a strategic move to put our students in a challenging environment for them to feel uncomfortable of failure. Our goal is to achieve a pass rate of 80% across all classes, with a particular focus on preparing grade 10 and 12 students for their National Standardised Test. The grade 8 students sat for National exams in June and grade 12 is expected to complete their exam finals end July.

STEM and Technology Initiatives

As a STEM-focused institution, we continue to enhance our students' skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Our design studio now has two instructors dedicated to teaching programming and design, ensuring our students are well-versed in technology from a grassroots level.

Developments / Upcoming Events

Rays of Hope Academy has joined a cluster of 10 schools, participating in harmonized exams to gauge our student's performance at a national level. Competing with Government National Secondary Schools has provided valuable insights and benchmarks, helping us understand our standing and areas for improvement.

We are excited to announce the introduction of a quiz competition, where students will be divided into four houses, each comprising members from all 4 grades. This competition aims to boost their confidence, foster teamwork, and inspire them to excel. We plan to send our students to national-level quiz competitions, providing them broader exposure and opportunities.

TEAM UPDATES

Help Us Welcome Our New Teachers



Mrs G. Phiri
Geography Teacher



Mr J. Magwira
Science Teacher



Rheshima Dagia
Program Officer



Mr C. Selengu
Science Teacher



Mr C. Selengu
Volunteer

We look forward to the positive impact they will have on our academic programs and the continued success of our students. Welcome aboard!

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

PARTNERSHIPS



We have seen that authentic partnerships with the communities that we work with have a significant impact on the outcomes of our work. At the beginning of the year, parents complained of unruly behavior of the program participants (their children). We took them through a biblical counselling for the past 6 months. We see that their change in behavior has also resulted in improved academic performance.

INCUBATING GROUP BUSINESSES



We have been slowly building a sustainable model for supporting youth so that they become economically independent. In our iterative journey, we have learnt that youths do well when they are supported as a group after giving them a skill to generate income. It has shown that going this direction encourages ownership and commitment.

TaRL for HIGHER GRADES



Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) has proven that it is an approach that works for foundational learning focusing on literacy and numeracy. We decided to use the approach in the higher classes in primary school. The results are consistent to those in the lower grades. It works even for the higher grades!

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FOR TEACHERS



One of the unique pieces of our teacher training program is its ability to create and sustain the communities of practice. Due to the scarcity of resources, these groups have become hubs of resources for in-service teachers. They strengthen the capacity they get from the program.

OUR CHALLENGES

INFLATION

Malawi has experienced unprecedented changes in inflation rate for the past several years from 2020 until now. The year-on inflation for 2023 was at 30 percent. There are rumors that this is not the end - it will continue to go up. The reality of the inflation, and the rumors (true/not) lead to instability of prices of goods and services. All that is making the running of our programs expensive, affecting our effort to plan long term. Suppliers and service providers keep on changing prices of their products, others hide their stock to sell it at their preferred time.

SCHOOL SCHEDULES

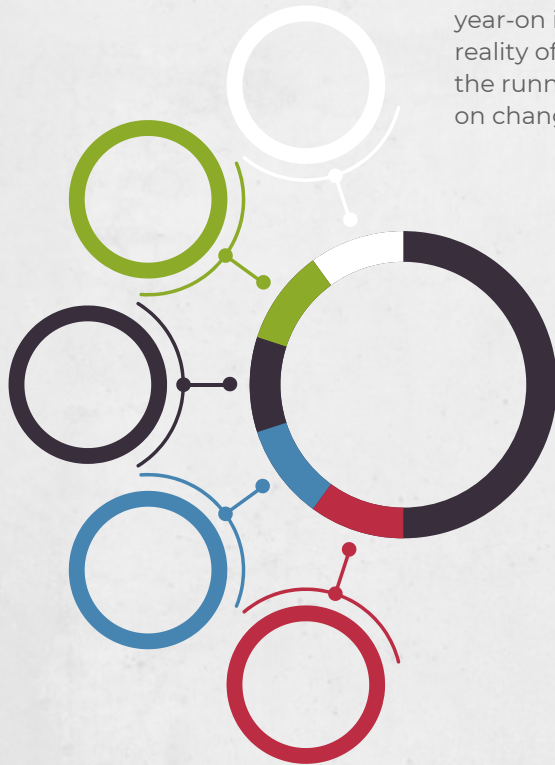
The country is coming from a series of unfortunate acts of nature such as cyclones, floods, and cholera outbreak. These led to school closures. All the efforts to recuperating the lost education are summarized into extending instruction hours or the introduction of learning shifts (part of the class come in the morning, another one in the afternoon). These efforts get into our remedial schedules. This is a challenge for us because it reduces the remediation time, which means that what we were able to accomplish in a day, requires an extra day.

SCARCE FUNDING FOR MIDDLE-SIZED ORGANIZATIONS

The organization has moved from being a small nonprofit to a middle-sized one with a budget of more than one million US Dollars. This space has proven to be hard to navigate. There are just not many funders who find these sweet spots for funding because we are big for those who fund start-ups, and a little early for those who fund big organizations. We only hope to grow our budget so that we can fit the latter.

TALENT

Rays of Hope is a growing organization, which means that we rely on polishing raw talent to accomplish our mission. However, the moment such talent is polished, it does not stay. They move to other bigger organizations such as the UN or other INGOs. It is a bittersweet. On one hand it validates the work we put into such talent, on the other it leaves a gap in our work, making us redo the cycle.

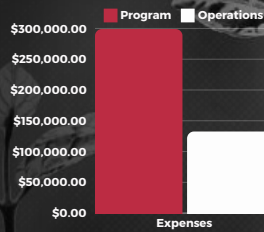


Financial Update

For the year 2024, our budget is capped at
\$USD 1,675,000
MWK 2,931,250,000

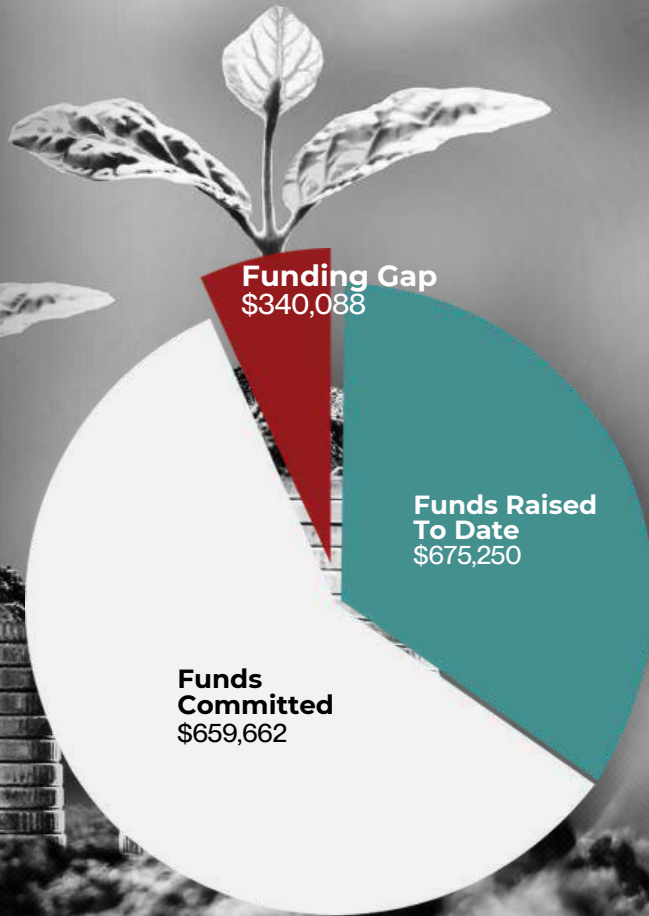
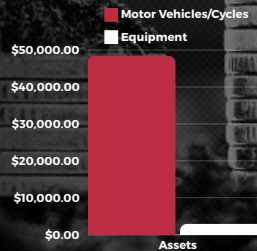
Expenses

	MK	USD\$
Programs	523,329,119.40	299,045.21
Operations	231,972,275.27	132,555.59
Total Expenditure	755,301,394.67	431,600.80



Assets

	MK	USD\$
Motor Vehicle/Cycle	84,723,280.00	48,413.30
Equipment	5,120,175.00	2,925.81
Total	89,843,455.00	51,339.12





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