



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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# From the Executive Director

I must recognize that it is a privilege to have this space and share with you my reflection, informed by our work. One of my favorite authors, Paul Freire, once wrote, "The future isn't something hidden in a corner. The future is something we build in the present." This quote resonates strongly with the year 2024 for me.

I attended several conferences in the year to learn from peers, connect with our supporters, and engage with potential funders. One potential funder told me, "I stopped funding education; it takes time to see results." As defeating as this response can be, Freire's quote serves as an encouragement, and aligns with the words of the legendary poet and writer, William Butler Yeats who said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

The fire is lit. The flames are irresistible. We see illiterate become literate.

Towards the end of the year, on one of my low days I got an email from a youth who went through our programs - afterschool, secondary bursary, and university scholarship. He changed my day with the words below.

"Now, as a proud employee of TNM (biggest local telecommunication company in Malawi), I feel compelled to give back to the organization that invested so much in me. I am eager to contribute my skills, time, and experience to help Rays of Hope Ministries continue making a difference in the lives of others. Could you please provide me with more information on the process, requirements, and available roles? I would appreciate any guidance on how I can get involved."

I get it. Education does not give immediate results, but it gives lasting results. I met this student in 2010, yet he showed up in 2024, wanting to give back as a token of appreciation. This is just one story; there are more! I thank God for this calling. If it was not for God, this would not have happened.

Thank you financial and strategic partners for your support. The team and I are indebted to your generosity and embrace.

God bless you!

**Willie Mpasuka**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**RAHO**  
Transformative



# 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 and different makers in their communities.





## **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



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Chikaiko Machika** is our legal mind with an education background. He is a lawyer, who is passionate about education, tapping into his early years of teaching in secondary school. Currently, he is a Litigation Manager at Eco Bank and provides support in all matters of legal and regulatory domains.



**Bayana Chunga** is a communication expert who thrives at the intersection of nonprofit work and communication. He holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication. He has two master's degrees in strategic management – University of Derby, and business administration from the University of Malawi. He is one of the founding board members of Rays of Hope and serves in the capacity of a Board Chairperson.



**Madalo Samati** is a development practitioner based in Malawi. She leads a national pilot education technology program with Imagine WorldWide as the Program Lead. She co-founded a Malawian Non-Governmental Organization called CRECCOM, which aims to 'empower communities and stakeholders to take ownership of their development initiatives through effective involvements.



**Margaret Ngwira** is a technology geek. She has over 13 years of experience in mobile network planning, operations, and project management with proven record of success in planning diverse technology projects. Her education in electrical and electronics engineering, from top universities in Malawi and the UK. She works for TNM Malawi, a giant telecommunications company in Malaw.



**Emmanuel Gondwe** is a qualified accountant with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) UK. Have over 20 years of professional work experience. He has provided accounting, audit, and financial services to a wide range of sectors in Malawi including, construction, manufacturing, public sector, financial services, education, Non-Governmental Organizations, and statutory institutions.



**Gilford Kadzakumanja** is an accomplished profession with a wide coverage of expertise. He rose to the position of Deputy Chief Officer for two premier commercial banks in Malawi such as New Finance Bank Malawi Limited, and NBS Bank Limited, Malawi. He picked strategic positions along the way such as: general manager, head of department(s), and other supervisory roles.



# 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 2024, we made significant progress in 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 & IMPACT**

Explore achievements and effects in 2024





## 2024 REACH NUMBERS

**5,421**

Teachers trained in Pedagogy, Classroom/ school management, TALULAR, and Morden teaching methodologies.

**380**

Secondary school underprivileged students remained in school through the bursary program.

**224**

Youths equipped with vocational skills, business acumen, leadership and life management skills.

**1,501**

Children served in after-school program from 12 different primary schools across Blantyre.

**250**

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

**22**

Youth benefited from with vocational skills training vocational scholarships.

**99.5%**

Pass rate in 2023-24 Malawi Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations among grade 8 afterschool program participant.

**97%**

Pass rate in 2023-24 Malawi Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examinations among grade 12 bursary beneficiaries.

**15**

Youth savings groups supported through finance management training, business leadership and acumen exposition



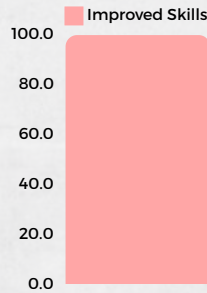
# 2024 IMPACT

## TARL



- Integrated TaRL into 48 government schools
- 8,210 Students moved from syllable level to sentence level
- 1431 Students moved from sentence level to comprehension level

## Teacher Training



- 91% of teachers shown improvement in lesson delivery
- 100% of communities of practice are functional with local leadership

## Remediation



Grade 12 students from the tutoring initiative have been selected to public universities.

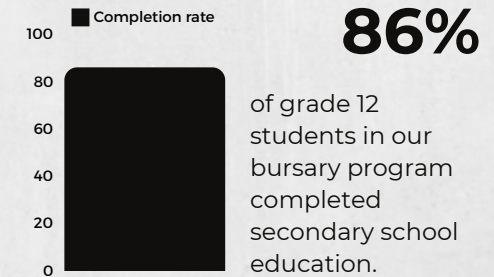
## Youth Entrepreneurship



Businesses are established and are thriving through the challenging economy.

# 14

Steps up in performance for Brantyre educational district, from 32 in 2022 to position 18 in 2024

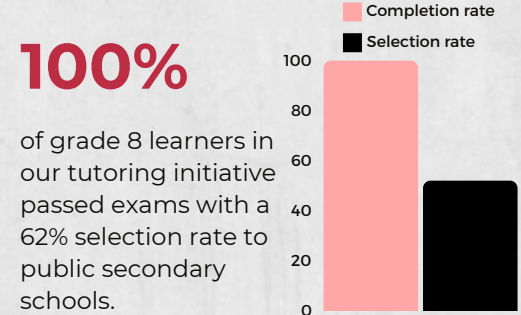
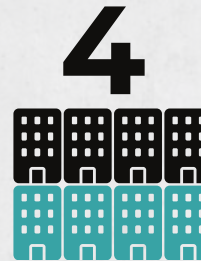


of grade 12 students in our bursary program completed secondary school education.



for 5 serving groups showing their dedication to financial growth.

Education districts in the top 10 in performance out of 34 education districts in the 2022/23 academic year.



of grade 8 learners in our tutoring initiative passed exams with a 62% selection rate to public secondary schools.





# Impact **Pathways**

Academic Innovation  
**Tutoring | Teacher Training**





## Thinking differently to provide education

**Malawi's education system faces significant challenges, leaving students as the biggest losers in the process. The survival rate of students from grade 5 to 8 currently stands at 37%, a drop from 39% in 2022/2023 academic year. We record 49.7% on transition rate to secondary school, a step up from 47.2% from last year. The situation is worrying. Alarming, 87% of children do not know how to read or write meaningfully by the age of 10! Foundational literacy and numeracy interventions are still needed.**

Recognizing that there are different ways to help children learn effectively, Rays of Hope's Academic Innovation Program introduces targeted and creative approaches towards students. These include Teaching at the Right Level, regular remedial sessions, and teacher skill-strengthening programs, all aimed at ensuring learners gain the most from their time in school. In turn they have increased pass rates, completion rates and selection rate in the targeted primary schools in underserved communities.







# Tutoring

(After-school Initiative)

Rays of Hope Malawi's Remedial Tutoring Initiative, also known as the Afterschool initiative, continues to transform the lives of learners from low-income communities in 10 public primary schools in Blantyre. Designed for students in grades five through eight, the program is a big help for struggling learners, assisting them catch up academically with the hope of increasing the number of students who complete primary school and improving their chances of selection to transition to secondary school. The community love it because it integrates faith; as such, students walk out with better grades and godly characters. While we initially aimed to support 1,500 children, the program welcomed 98 additional learners who sought the opportunity for remedial support.

In 2024, the initiative celebrated remarkable achievements, including higher pass rates and increased selection rates for national secondary schools among participants. A testament to the children's resilience and determination, 100% of learners scored above average in assessments in three terms across all four tutoring camps(Likhubuka, Chilomoni, Makalanga, and South Lunzu). These results reflect not only the academic impact but also the faith and hope we instill in every child through the different discipleship activities in the initiative. By integrating values of faith, perseverance, and purpose into the learning experience, we aim to nurture the whole child—academically, morally, and spiritually—equipping them for a hopeful future.



# Sustained Engagement in Education

## The feeding initiative

Learners in Rays of Hope's remedial initiatives benefit greatly from feeding programs across the tutoring centers. Many of these children come from families striving to manage with just one or two meals a day, and some attend school on an empty stomach. This makes the feeding initiative a vital component in keeping children engaged in the school as they receive remedial support from our tutors. The meal is also our effort in extending the an arm of God's love and embrace. Our long-standing partnership with J-Life Organisation has been a hope for such children, ensuring they receive at least one meal at the tutoring camps. With J-Life's support, we have been able to sustain the feeding initiative year-round across all four camps, with over 1,000 children fully concentrating in our activities because they are not hungry from Mondays through Thursdays. We are eternally grateful to God for J-Life's support.

## Summer Camp activities

Our camps are vibrant hubs of joy and spiritual growth. Rays of Hope believes that excitement fuels interest, and spirituality nurtures character. Happy children often excel in various activities. All children actively participated in our activities, which included Science Projects, Sports, Indoor Games, Drama, Quizzes, Competitions, and Educational Trips. These activities, offered during both academic terms and summer breaks, were designed to motivate and inspire the children. The team organised incentive during activities as a way of encouraging competitive spirit and participation.



Over **1,000** children received lunch meals at the tutoring camps.







# Fostered community participation

## **Stakeholder Meetings (Parents/School Management)**

Throughout 2024, Rays of Hope Malawi's partnership with stakeholders has been crucial in shaping and implementing its after-school initiative. The organization has worked closely with local partners, learning from challenges, accomplishments, and addressed topics like transitions and student's performance.

Rays of Hope held termly parental engagement sessions. These gatherings served as platforms for gathering feedback and encouraging parents to actively support their children's educational development. We urged them to keep sending their children to the tutoring centers regularly. Over 100 parents showed. By fostering trust and collaboration among parents, teachers, and the wider community, Rays of Hope continues to strengthen its after-school initiative, ensuring it remains responsive and beneficial to all learners.

## **Community Home Visits**

Community home visits have been a cornerstone of success for Rays of Hope, strengthening our connection with the learners and their families. In 2024, we achieved a remarkable milestone by visiting **1,100 homes, surpassing the 900 visits in 2023**. This was possible due to the work of our godly tutors; they are diligent in serving these communities. We are thankful to churches, who are the catchment area in recruiting the tutors.

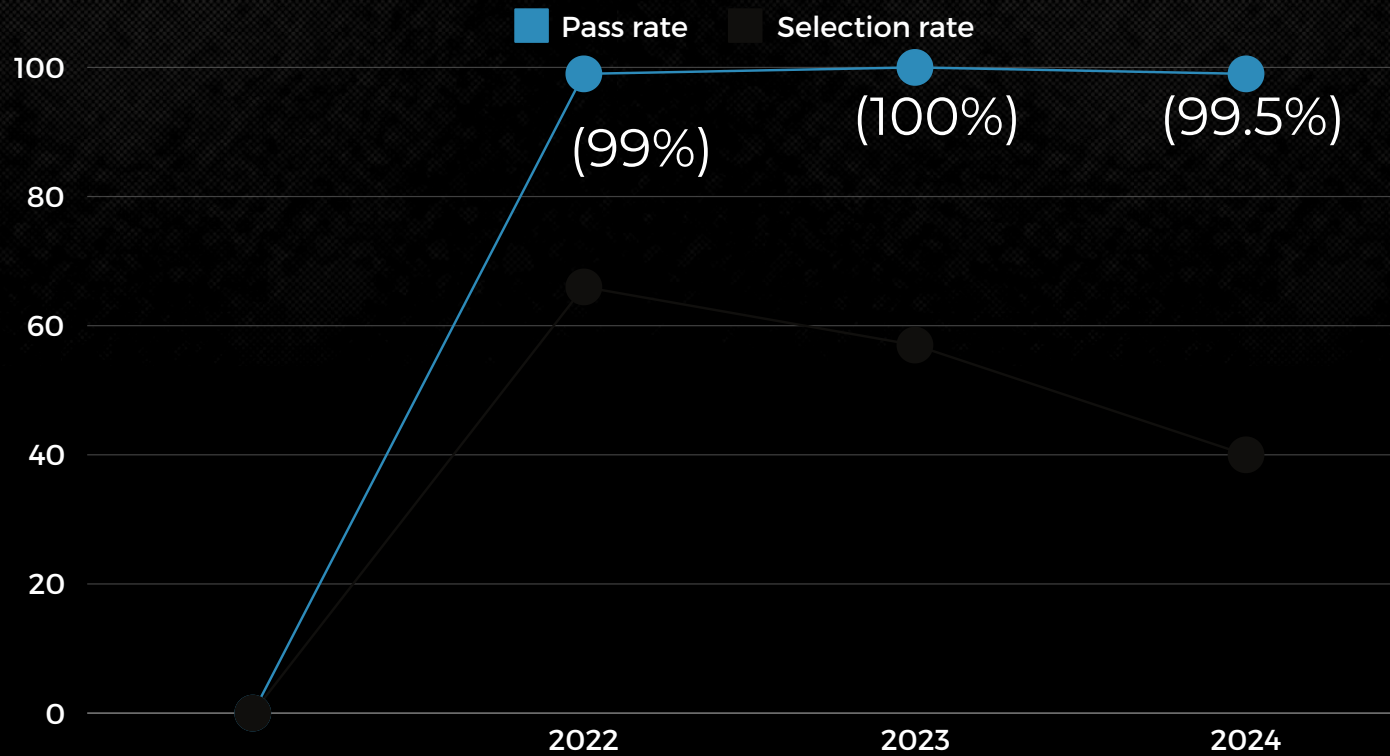
The visits not only support learners but also nurture strong relationships with parents and guardians, fostering trust and collaboration. They serve as a vital platform to gather feedback from the community, ensuring our initiatives align with their needs and continue to transform the lives of their children. During each visit, our dedicated tutors encourage families to continue sending their children to our centers for discipleship, learning, helping every child maximize their access to remedial education.



**1,100 families  
engaged in support  
for child education.**



## National standardised test results



In 2024, 181 (78 boys, 103 girls) out of 182 grade 8 learners who sat for 2023-2024 primary school national exams passed, representing a 99.5%; 72 learners selected to various public secondary schools. Comparatively, in 2023, the program achieved 100% pass rate. 190 out of 190 learners passed with 99 learners selected to public secondary schools .



# 14

new schools partnered  
in the tutoring  
initiative benefiting  
**4,209** children in  
standards 5 - 8.

## Expansion into Kasungu and Dowa

In response to the urgent need for remedial education beyond Blantyre, Rays of Hope launched its Afterschool initiative in Kasungu and Dowa districts in 2024. This expansion is a vital step in addressing the educational gap for struggling learners in rural areas, where access to quality tutoring is limited. The initiative now operates in seven schools in each district, ensuring that more children receive structured afterschool learning support to enhance their academic foundation.

The necessity for this expansion is underscored by the 2024 statistics, which reveal that only 2.1% of Grade 8 learners in Dowa and Kasungu were admitted to national secondary schools, while just 6% advanced to district secondary schools. These figures emphasize the significant challenges faced by students in these regions, highlighting the urgent need for focused remedial assistance to improve their transition rates to higher education. With 4,209 children currently enrolled, the program is making a significant difference by increasing educational access and enhancing learning outcomes in these newly served areas.

Our collaboration with PMI, Age Africa, and CYECE has been crucial in scaling the initiative, providing the necessary resources, training, and mentorship to sustain and expand the program. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to creating a learning environment where every child has the chance to excel academically and prepare for a successful future.



# Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)

# 48

public primary schools  
integrate TaRL  
delivered by  
government  
teachers.

Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) is a foundational literacy and numeracy approach that teaches students at their level of competency and not by grade. TaRL is an important approach for many developing countries in Africa particularly, Malawi. In 2019, the World Bank carried out a study that noted that learning poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is at 90%. The subsequent report from the Malawi Government on learning poverty reported 87%. Learning poverty is when children are in school but they cannot read or write meaningfully by the age of 10. There can never be the best time for such interventions than now.

In 2022/23 we piloted TaRL in Blantyre Rural education district. The results were mindblowing! Learners who did not know how to read or write started reading and writing to the amazement of their parents and guardians. Our team members were gifted chicken and other items as token of appreciation that their children could now read and write. This success attracted the interest from the Ministry of Education who asked us to bring TaRL into their schools because this was done as an afterschool initiative.

After a series of conversations with the government, we signed an MoU so that we should bring it into the schools. We reached out to some of our partners to support us in this journey. We found resources to implement TaRL. A key success in this partnership with the government was that it was given dedicated time during the school hours, and the government teachers were the primary deliverers of the approach.

In total, the initiative serves over 13,000 students across 48 primary schools. After a series of assessment as per the TaRL design, results are encouraging. In grade four, 8,210 Students moved from syllable level to sentence level. In grade five, 1431 Students moved from sentence level to comprehension level



# Teacher Training

(Teacher Skills Strengthening Program)

**The Malawian education system faces several challenges that affect the delivery of quality education in public primary schools. High student-to-teacher ratios of around 1:120, lack of adequate learning materials, and limited teacher training opportunities contribute to low performance among learners. These conditions highlight the need for effective strategies to support both educators and students.**



teachers  
trained in  
272 public  
primary  
school.

The Teachers Skill Strengthening Program is designed to reduce the technical gaps among in-service teachers in public primary schools, ultimately enhancing students' learning outcomes. From January to March, the organization implemented this program in 272 primary schools across various impact areas in Malawi. The capacity-building initiative took two forms: Initial training focused on identified professional gaps, such as teaching numeracy skills. Teachers were organized into communities of practice or peer learning groups, serving as support systems and platforms for resource sharing.

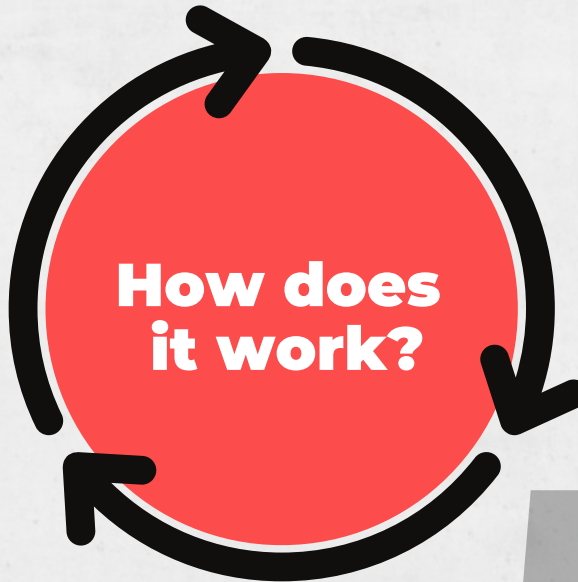
The program's approach begins with training teachers on various contemporary professional gaps through a training of trainers model. After this initial training, the trainers subsequently pass on their knowledge to their respective schools. Teachers create networks called communities of practice, where they share resources and knowledge, enhance each other's skills, and intensify peer monitoring. This model emphasizes mutual support among teachers and the practical application of skills and knowledge in the classroom, ultimately improving their teaching effectiveness and boosting students' academic performance.





**We develop content  
to address the identified  
gaps**

**2**



**1**

**We assess teachers'  
skills gaps in a cluster  
of schools**

**3**

**We deploy  
content through  
the ToT approach**

**4**

**We use communities  
of practice through  
the peer learning  
groups at school level**

**5**

**We assess  
teachers' skills  
and students'  
learning outcomes**





# Efforts for Quality Education

## Teacher Training Bootcamps

Since 2016, Rays of Hope Malawi has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Education to provide teacher training workshops aimed at improving the skills of in-service teachers. What began as a program with fewer than 200 teachers in one district now serves over 5,000 teachers across several districts. Through these workshops, participants gain practical knowledge that helps them promote interactive learning and improved classroom engagement.

The joint monitoring and supervision efforts have proven effective in instilling best practices among teachers and school management. These activities helped assessing how well teachers apply the knowledge and skills shared during our regular bootcamps.

Over the years, schools that once trailed in performance have climbed in zonal, district, and national rankings. For example, Blantyre District has moved from position 32 to 18 at the district level, and Chilomoni Primary School achieved a 100% pass rate in the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations for the first time in history. In 2024 alone, **82% of teachers who took part in our initiatives demonstrated adoption of advanced teaching practices.**



**82% of the teachers trained demonstrated adoption of contemporary teaching methods**



# A shared responsibility for change.

## Functional Teacher Networks

In 2024, Rays of Hope Malawi continued to champion collaboration among educators by strengthening functional teacher networks—hubs of innovation where teachers connect, exchange ideas, and support one another in improving classroom practices. These networks have become a driving force for positive change, fostering a spirit of mentorship and shared responsibility for academic excellence.

**In 2024, 84 teacher networks were established across our target districts, all remaining fully active with 71.3% of over 5,400 educators participating.**

Teachers visit one another's schools monthly to gain firsthand insights into effective methods and strategies. These efforts involve regular collaboration with government education officials from Zonal Teacher Development Centers (TDCs), reinforcing the importance of supervision and shared accountability in achieving better learning outcomes. Such collaboration has increased morale by recognizing and spotlighting outstanding educators. By encouraging teachers to learn from each other, the networks cultivate a strong sense of ownership in improving education standards. This shared responsibility leads to more dedicated practices, helping schools continually improve and ensuring lasting benefits for the students they serve.

## Enhanced structured and responsive education system

The Teacher Peer Learning Initiative has not only fostered collaboration among educators but has also significantly improved monitoring and supervision in schools. With teachers working together in peer learning groups, there has been a growing emphasis on accountability, ensuring that innovative teaching practices are not only shared but also implemented effectively in classrooms.

A key factor in this improvement has been the involvement of Teacher Development Centers (TDCs), whose officials actively participate in school exchange visits and peer learning activities. Their presence has led to intensified supervision, providing schools with structured guidance and continuous feedback on areas that need improvement. This proactive engagement has encouraged schools to uphold higher teaching standards, ultimately enhancing the quality of education.







## Testimonial

I am very proud to share the great success of Chilomoni LEA in the 2023-2024 PSLCE exams. For the first time, we achieved a 100% pass rate, with 86 students moving to secondary school and 7 selected for National Secondary Schools. This is a big achievement for our school.

We have also received three awards from Blantyre City and two from Rays of Hope, recognizing our hard work and success. Rays of Hope has played a big role in this achievement. The support—extra lessons, practice exams, discipleship activities, nutritious meals, and teacher training—has helped our students learn better and perform well.

I want to thank everyone who has supported us. Chilomoni LEA will continue to shine in the zone and district.

**Mrs. Muthali**

**Head Teacher**

Chilomoni LEA Primary School.





A photograph of three young Black students walking outdoors. The student on the left is wearing a white shirt and a red backpack, looking back over his shoulder. The student in the middle is wearing a white shirt and a dark grey backpack, looking forward. The student on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt and a grey backpack, looking towards the other two. The background shows a dirt path, greenery, and a brick building.

# Impact **Pathways**

Academic Inclusion  
**Scholarships | Coaching**







## Removing financial and nonfinancial barriers to education

**In Malawi, many children face serious challenges in accessing secondary education. Factors such as poverty, high school fees, geographical distance, and early marriage—especially for girls—can hinder their academic progress. Although primary school enrolment is relatively high, only less than 45% of learners continue to secondary school. The cost of tuition, uniforms, and transportation can be daunting for families living below the poverty line, while a shortage of quality public schools restricts further opportunities.**

Rays of Hope steps in to render a hand to the families by providing financial and non-financial barriers to stay in school and thrive in their academics. This initiative targets students who are smart and are struggling raise money to pay for their secondary education. We give first priority to those students who have been a part of our tutoring program during their primary education. The biblical counseling curriculum is a critical resource in helping students address other non-monetary issues.





# 380

remained in school  
and mentored for  
academic excellence

## Scholarships

(No student is Left Behind)

In 2024, Rays of Hope Malawi expanded its bursary program to reach 380 secondary school students, surpassing last year's goal of 350 by 30. Guided by our belief that each child's potential is a gift from God, we offer both financial and non-financial assistance—covering tuition fees and providing mentorship sessions. These acts of service ensure learners from underprivileged backgrounds remain in school, grow in faith and character, and build the confidence they need to excel academically.

We are delighted to share that over 90% of our bursary students completed secondary school this year. Among Grade 12 learners, 36 out of 39 passed the national exams—a 97% pass rate—with the highest score recorded at 13 points. In the Junior Certificate of Education exams, 76 out of 77 learners succeeded, reflecting a 99% pass rate. These inspiring achievements show that when students receive the right support, they can overcome adversity and thrive.



# Coaching/Mentorship

(No student is Left Behind)

Recognising the critical role of mentorship in shaping student success, Rays of Hope has strengthened its bursary program by encouraging students to form study and practice circles under the guidance of their dedicated bursars. These peer-led study groups provide a structured and supportive learning environment, particularly for students who struggle to study at home due to a lack of conducive space or resources.

Inspired by the collaborative learning model embraced in our teacher training program, these study circles create a space where students model, encourage, and share best practices in academics. Through peer support and knowledge-sharing, learners help each other navigate challenging subjects, reinforcing their understanding, confidence, and preparedness for academic assessments. We also organised targeted termly coaching sessions which accommodated over 200 students who received tips to success and motivation sessions by the Rays of staff who also acted as role models during the events.

In 2024, approximately 95% of bursary students actively participated in study circles, with program officers conducting regular monitoring visits to track progress and engagement levels. The impact of this initiative has been evident in the consistent termly pass rates among all 380 bursary students, who have maintained above-average performance across subjects. Additionally, this approach contributed to the remarkable pass rates of Grade 10 and Grade 12 students in the 2023-24 National Standardised Examinations, a testament to the effectiveness of structured peer learning.

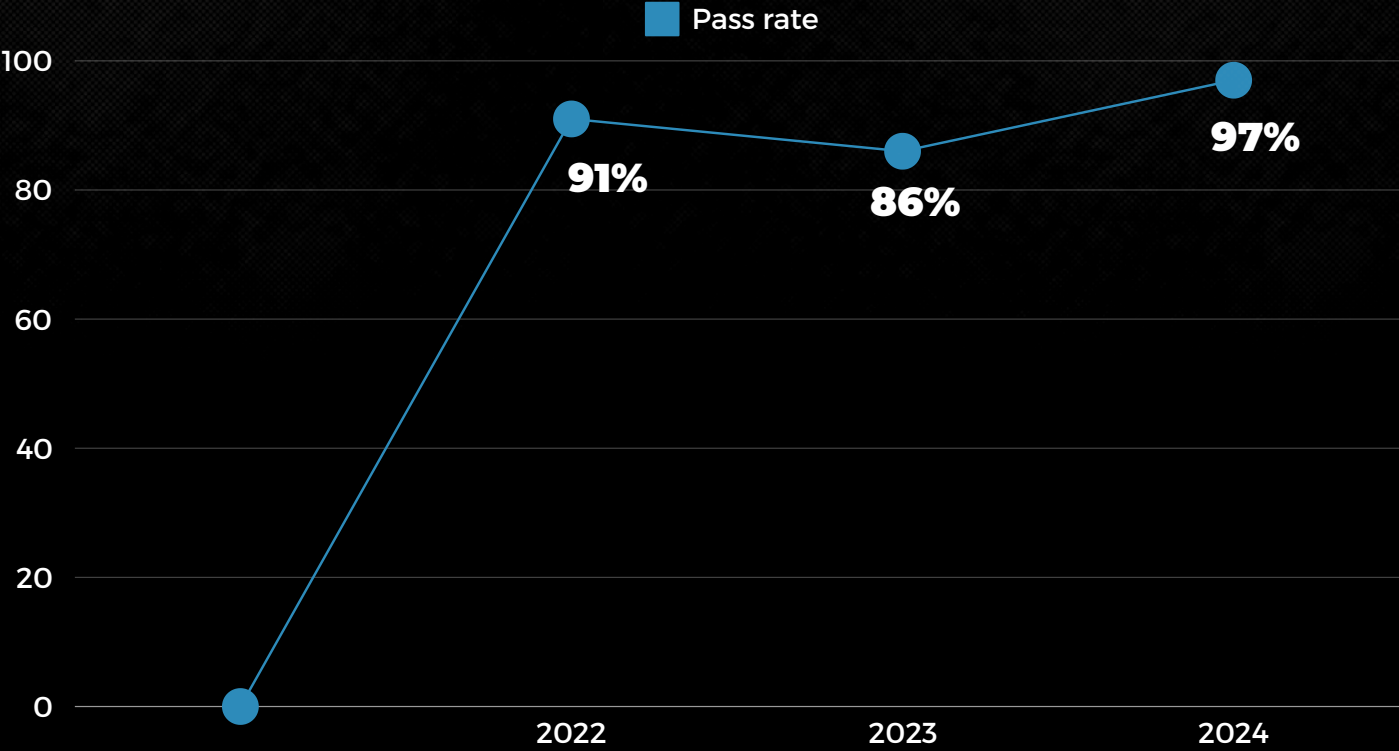
**200+ Students participated in termly coaching and mentorship sessions.**





# GRADE 12

## National standardised test trends



In 2024, 36 out of 39 students passed the grade 12 national exams, representing a 97% pass rate with the highest scoring 13 points. In comparison, 43 out of 50 students in 2023 passed the exams representing 86% and in 2022, 91% made it. 8 students have from 2023 have been selected to various universities to further their studies.







Impact **Pathways**

Economic Integration

**Business training | Vocational training**







## **Formal education is not the only way to success!**

**For many young people in Malawi, completing secondary school does not guarantee access to higher education or employment opportunities. With the country producing only 30,000 jobs annually against 100,000+ graduates entering the job market, thousands of youth struggle to find meaningful economic opportunities. Many lack specialised skills or startup capital, leaving them vulnerable to economic instability and dependency.**

To bridge this gap, Rays of Hope implements Economic Integration Program that focuses on three key areas: Vocational Scholarships, Business training & coaching, and Leadership. These initiatives equip youth with marketable skills, financial literacy & savings, and entrepreneurship knowledge—empowering them to build self-sustaining livelihoods.





# 22

out of school youth  
completed training in  
computer studies,  
tailoring, and fashion  
designing.

## Vocational Training

By June 2024, eight youth received tailoring business startup equipment and materials, establishing successful ventures in their communities. These beneficiaries are currently repaying the value of the materials to Rays of Hope with an agreed interest, ensuring the sustainability of the program. Additionally, 22 youth completed training in computer studies, tailoring, and designing at Sanwecka and St. John Paul II, and many have since opened their own businesses—resulting in one salon and eight tailoring shops now thriving under this initiative. All the youth in this program participate in discipleship activities, helping them shape their character, understanding that God is the owner of resources, and that demands quality stewardship and integrity.

Under this initiative, we have witnessed the incarnation of 8 tailoring and fashion design and hair dressing legit businesses by the youth who showed resilience and capabilities to run businesses. Rays of Hope invested an approximate of \$3,500 enabling the to access start up equipment and materials to help them kick start their business. Rays of Hope continued to mentor and monitor the new businesses which are slowly showing promising signs of growth.





# Business training / YSL

Leadership and financial skills are essential for sustained impact.

This year, 80% of the targeted youth demonstrated strong business acumen, with 43 youth trained in Youth Savings and Loans (YSL) with the idea that these leader will have cascaded the skills acquired back to their groups. These newly skilled individuals went on to train their own peers, resulting in 15 youth savings groups that were actively monitored and mentored. Out of these, five groups collectively saved over \$7,641, showcasing the power of group-based financial accountability. Furthermore, 334 youths including those who were awarded vocational training scholarships and tutors who supported children in the afterschool initiative benefited from business training, leadership and life management.

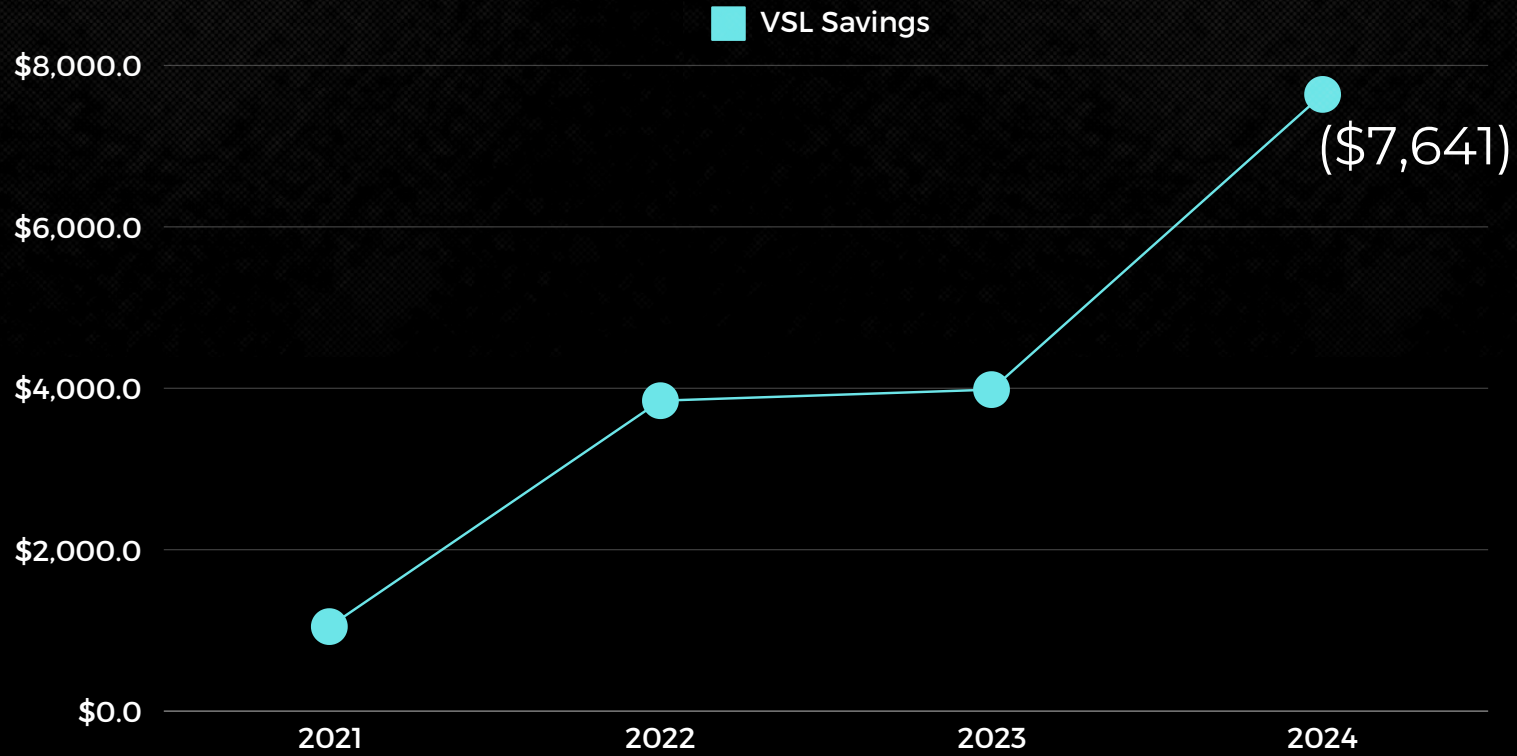
At Rays of Hope, we believe that as we train young people, we are not only enabling financial independence but also cultivating a generation of youth leaders and role models who will uplift their communities and drive financial transformation in the near future.

**80% of the youth who went through the business training initiative strong business acumen.**





# VSL Savings



Over the past three years, we have observed a positive trend of financial growth among the saving groups involved in our program. This year, the groups have pledged to conclude the year with approximately \$7,641 in savings, which is an increase of \$2,000 compared to last year's \$3,000.







# Advocacy **Partnership**

WE BELIEVE IN COLLABORATION





# Abwenzi A Ana

## Advocating education rights for children

In 2024, Rays of Hope, in collaboration with Save the Children, YODEP, Future4All, and the Malawi Government, continued its commitment to ensuring that all children—especially girls—have access to safe, inclusive, and quality education. The Abwenzi A Ana Initiative remains a critical intervention in Ntcheu District, where high rates of early marriage and gender-based violence threaten the future of many young girls. This initiative advocates for higher primary school completion rates, empowering communities to protect children from violence, exploitation, and harmful cultural practices that hinder their education.

Using strong partnerships and collaborative efforts, the program successfully implemented key activities designed to enhance the learning environment and promote child protection. A significant milestone was the procurement and distribution of over 600 desks and 6,000 notebooks and writing materials to target schools. This investment has improved classroom conditions, increased student engagement, and motivated more children to stay in school.

Additionally, the initiative focused on:

- Advocacy and community engagement to raise awareness on child rights, gender equality, and the importance of education for girls.
- Training school committees, mother groups, and PTAs to support girls' education and protect learners from violence and early marriage.
- Mentorship programs for girls, creating safe spaces where they receive guidance, psychosocial support, and motivation to pursue their education.

By addressing both systemic challenges and immediate learning needs, the Abwenzi A Ana Initiative is creating lasting change in Ntcheu. The strong collaboration between government, civil society, and local communities ensures that education remains a priority for every child, regardless of their background.



**Over 600 desks and 6,000 writing material distributed to 11 schools in Ntcheu.**



# BEFIT Program

## Transforming Learning Through EdTech

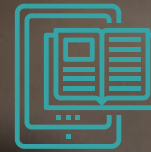
In 2024, Rays of Hope took on a key role in Malawi's EdTech initiative, Building Education Foundations through Innovation and Technology (BEFIT), a government-led program aimed at improving early-grade literacy and numeracy through digital learning. As an implementation partner, Rays of Hope was entrusted with supporting the Ministry of Education in launching the program across Chikwawa, Nsanje, Neno, and Mwanza districts impacting 35,539 children in 413 public primary schools.

At the start of the year, dedicated officers from Rays of Hope led community sensitization engagements across 413 targeted schools, ensuring school communities understood the benefits of the program. These engagements addressed security concerns, misconceptions, and the role of communities in supporting the initiative.

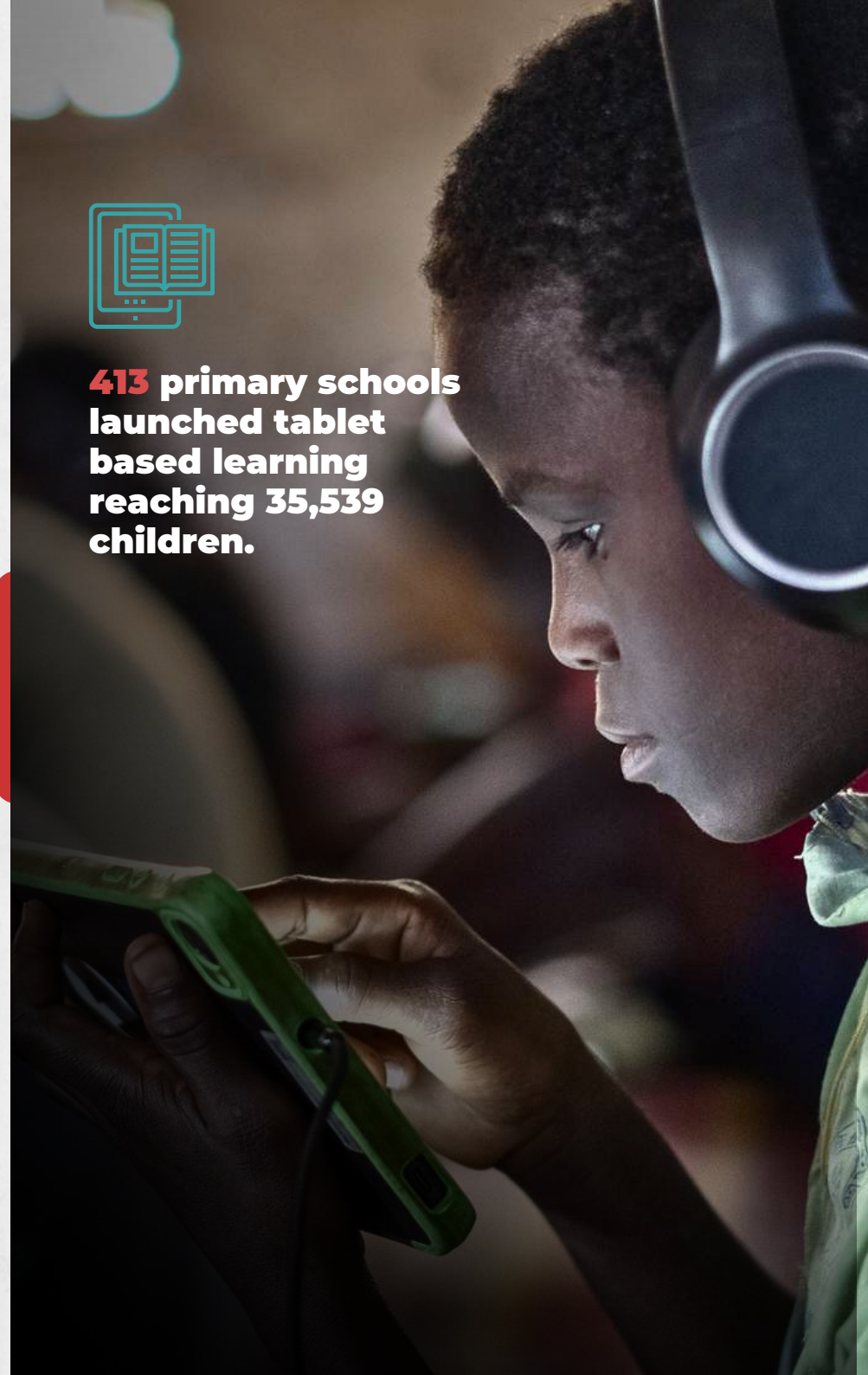
A major focus of our work was teacher training and capacity building. We successfully trained 904 teachers on how to integrate technology into learning and effectively manage tablet-based instruction. This was followed by intensive monitoring, supervision, and termly refresher trainings to reinforce best practices and improve program effectiveness.

BEFIT has now been introduced in every district in Malawi, with gradual expansion into more schools. As a six-year initiative, the program aims to reach over 6,000 primary schools nationwide, equipping them with solar-powered electricity, tablets, and digital learning accessories.

Beyond its immediate impact in four districts, BEFIT has also opened doors for Rays of Hope to collaborate with new communities and education stakeholders across Malawi. As we continue to provide implementation support, we remain committed to ensuring that all children—regardless of their background—have access to innovative, technology-driven education that will shape a brighter future for Malawi.



**413 primary schools  
launched tablet  
based learning  
reaching 35,539  
children.**





# VIA initiative

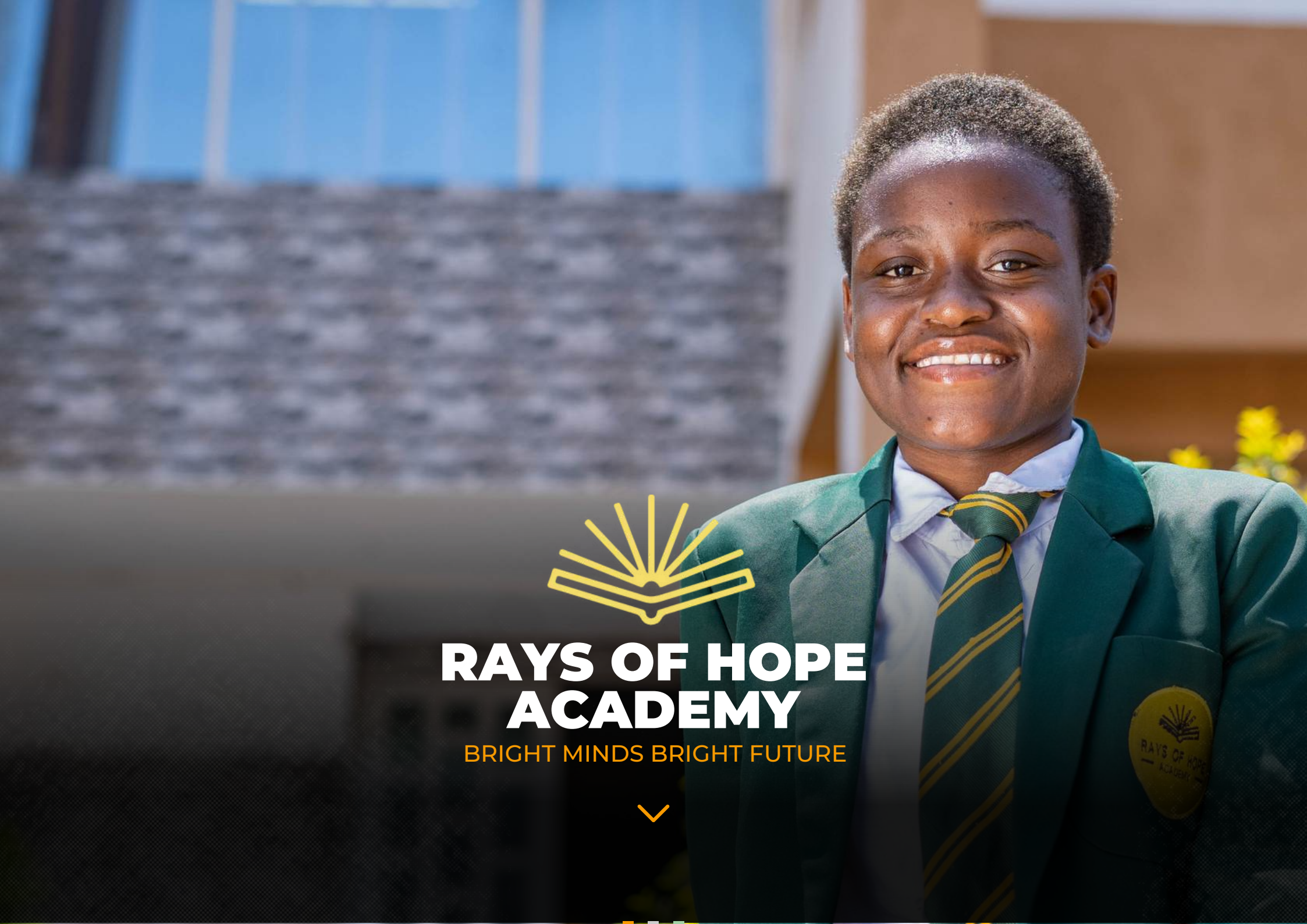
## Road safety campaigns in Blantyre

In Blantyre and surrounding areas, children remain at high risk on their way to and from school due to heavy traffic congestion, unsafe crossings, and intense transportation activities. In Ndirande Township alone, at least four schoolchildren have been fatally injured in recent years, highlighting the urgent need for road safety awareness and interventions.

To address this challenge, Rays of Hope partnered with the TotalEnergies Foundation to implement, VIA Program—a road safety advocacy and education initiative aimed at promoting safe mobility practices among schoolchildren. The program engaged five primary schools in Blantyre Urban, including: Ndirande Matope Primary School, Chilomoni Primary School, Bangwe Primary School, Makhetha Primary School. Through sensitization, training, and awareness campaigns, over 15,000 learners received practical road safety education, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate high-risk roads safely.







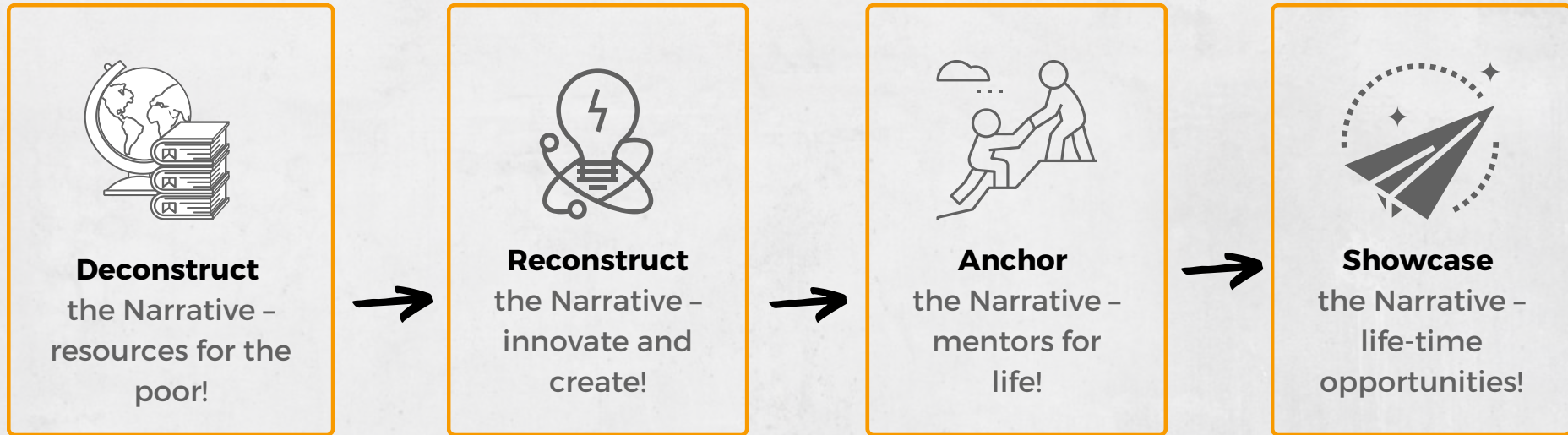
# RAYS OF HOPE ACADEMY

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.



# 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

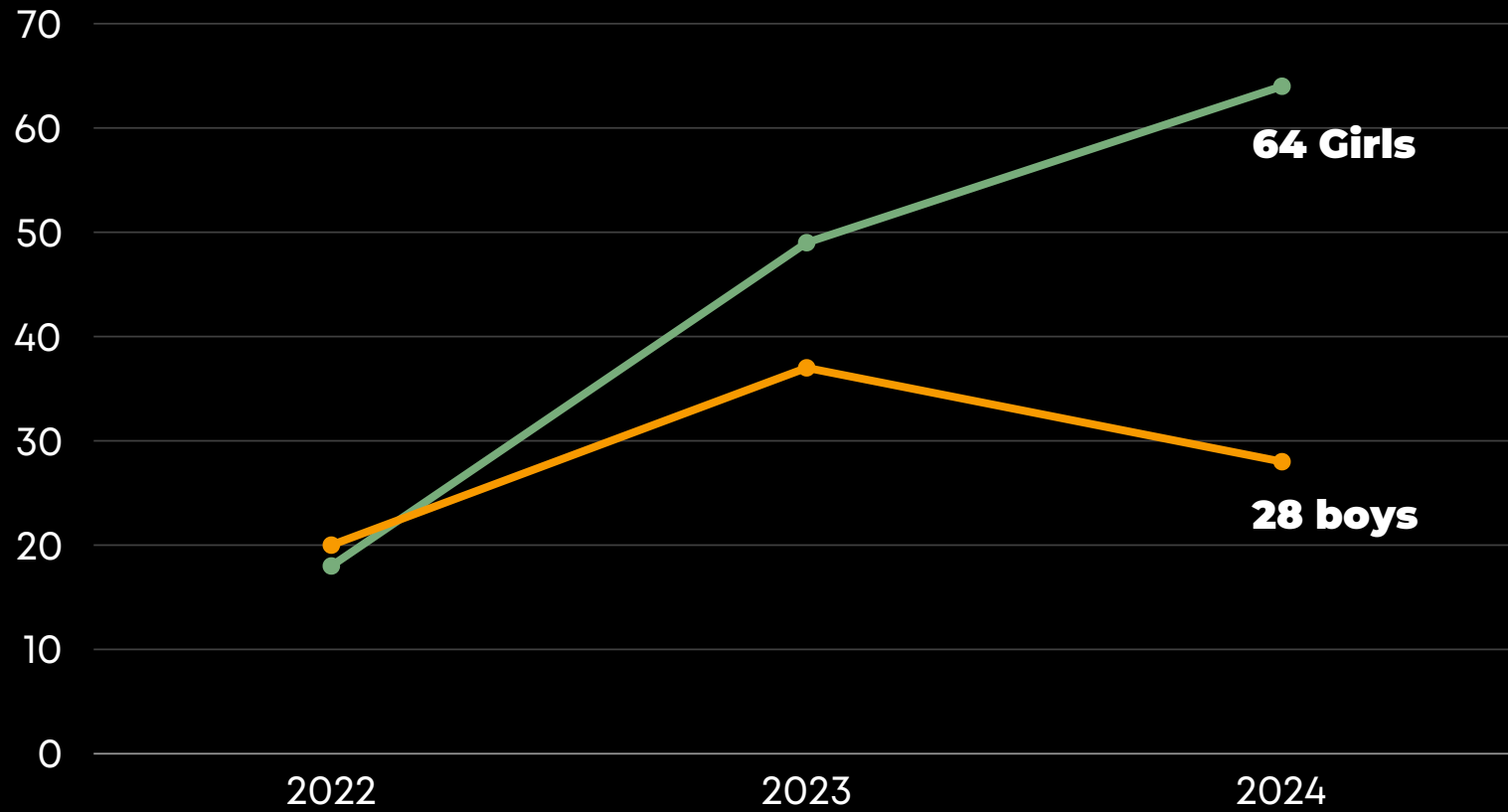
Foster Holistic Development  
Implementing comprehensive extracurricular programs aimed at nurturing students' physical, social, and emotional well-being, including sports, arts, and character-building activities.

Maintain 100% passrate in all classes.

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

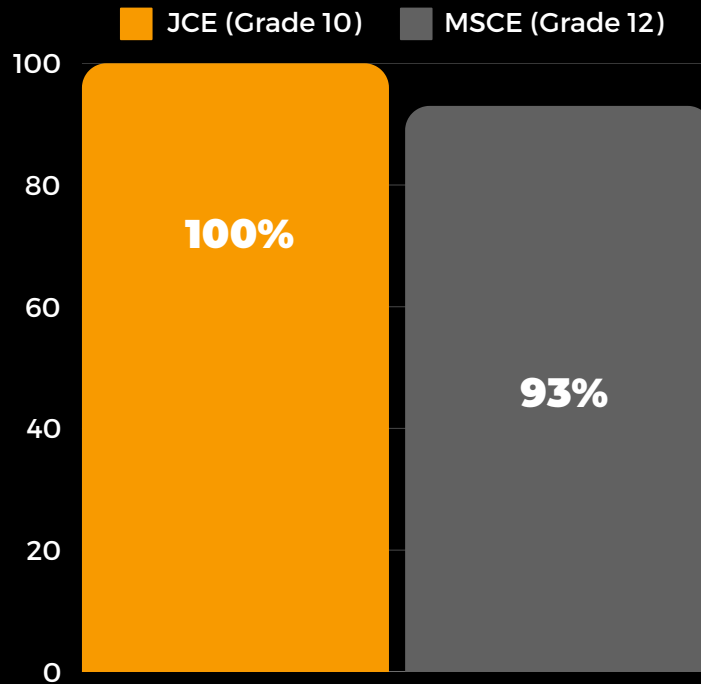


# Students Enrolment





# Academic Performance



## 2024 academic results

Rays of Hope Academy continues to shine in national exams, proving that hard work, dedication, and quality teaching make a real difference. Since 2019, we have proudly maintained a 100% pass rate in the Junior Certificate Examination (JCE). All students transitioned on to Grade 11 successfully.

In 2024, our students achieved another great milestone in the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams. 25 out of 28 students who took the MSCE passed representing 93% pass rate.



# 2024 Academic Journey

We had so much progress this year

Rays of Hope Academy continues to achieve outstanding results in national examinations, reinforcing its reputation as a center of academic excellence and a home of character. Our 2024 second cohort successfully completed their four-year journey, with an impressive 93% pass rate in the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE), a notable improvement from 87% in 2023. The highest-achieving student in this cohort scored 17 points, a remarkable feat for a 17-year-old girl who started with Rays of Hope from Standard 5 through our After-School Programme. Now preparing for public university selection, her success story is a testament to the transformative impact of our continuous academic support. For the Junior Certificate Examination (JCE), Rays of Hope Academy maintained a 100% pass rate for the fifth consecutive year, ensuring that all students transitioned successfully to senior secondary school.

We are ranked 34th out of 233 schools in SWED and have achieved an impressive 2nd position among 13 schools in our cluster, surpassed only by Blantyre Secondary School (BSS), a renowned national secondary school. With a distinction percentage of 5.58, our Academy stands out as a rising institution with the potential to reach the pinnacle of excellence in secondary education. Our goal to produce students achieving 6 points in the MSCE is well within reach. This success has increased traffic to our school. In this academic year we enrolled 105 students across all the grades. Our mission is to provide quality education and admirable integrity. We also celebrate the choices our students make as they seek opportunities best suited to their needs. The attraction of these students reflects the confidence they have in our institution's godly atmosphere, conducive learning environment and strong academic foundation.

To improve student performance, the academy introduced weekend and remedial classes aimed at achieving an 80%+ pass rate across all forms. Additionally, we joined a competitive cluster of 12 schools to benchmark exam performance at both regional and national levels. The development of our Design Studio continued, with two trained instructors integrating STEM projects into the curriculum, exposing students to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A Students Christian Organization of Malawi (SCOM) retreat was also organized to instill Christian values and holistic personal development among students.





## 2nd Place

zonal quiz competition beating 15 secondary schools in blantyre.

## Beyond academics

Beyond academics, we recognize the importance of holistic student development. This year, the academy introduced several extracurricular programs, including Music and Drama Clubs, indoor games such as chess, and quiz competitions. In one of the most competitive quiz events, Rays of Hope Academy secured second place in the Blantyre Zone, with Blantyre Secondary School taking first place. These activities were carefully designed to develop students' confidence, creativity, and teamwork while instilling a hardworking and competitive spirit. With 100% student participation, the program ensured that every learner had the opportunity to express themselves and explore new skills beyond the classroom.

Rays of Hope Academy remains committed to preparing students for future careers in science and technology. This year, our two design studio instructors completed specialized training, positioning students to develop science projects and compete in national STEM exhibitions. Through this initiative, we are equipping learners with practical knowledge in technology, programming, and design, ensuring they develop skills for the modern job market.

Looking ahead, we aim to strengthen STEM and technology education through the Design Studio initiative, expand remedial and weekend classes to enhance academic performance and university admissions, and increase enrollment capacity to accommodate more deserving students. As we move forward, we remain committed to transforming lives through quality education, ensuring that every student who walks through our doors has a empowered and prepared for the tech advancing future ahead.





**"My name is Chimwemwe Willow. I became a part of Rays of Hope in Standard 5 in 2016 through the After-School program, seeking extra assistance to improve my academic performance. I transformed from a struggling student to an average one by the time I reached grade eight. Unfortunately, I was not selected for a public secondary school. However, I later enrolled at Rays of Hope Academy, in 2020 and I earned 17 points in my MSCE in 2024. I walk away with excellent grades, and solid Christian values. Now, I am preparing to apply for public university selection, confident that Rays of Hope will continue to support me, just as they promised back in 2016."**

Chimwemwe's story is a powerful testament to the long-term impact of Rays of Hope's academic programs, which support students from primary school to higher education.



# Financial Update

**Budgeted Income**  
**\$USD 1,671,442**

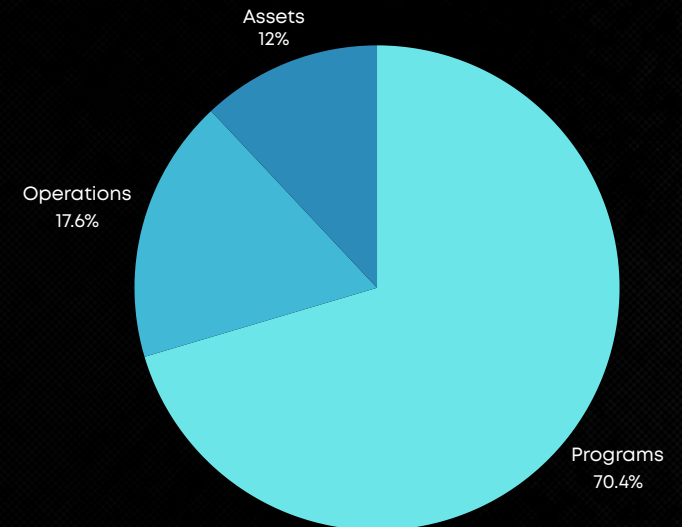
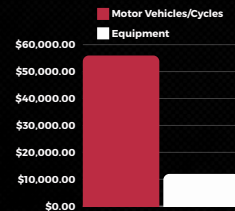
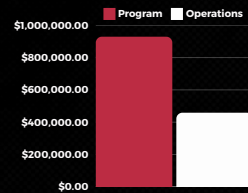
**Total Exp**  
**\$USD 1,585,654**

**Actual Income**  
**\$USD 1,611,442**

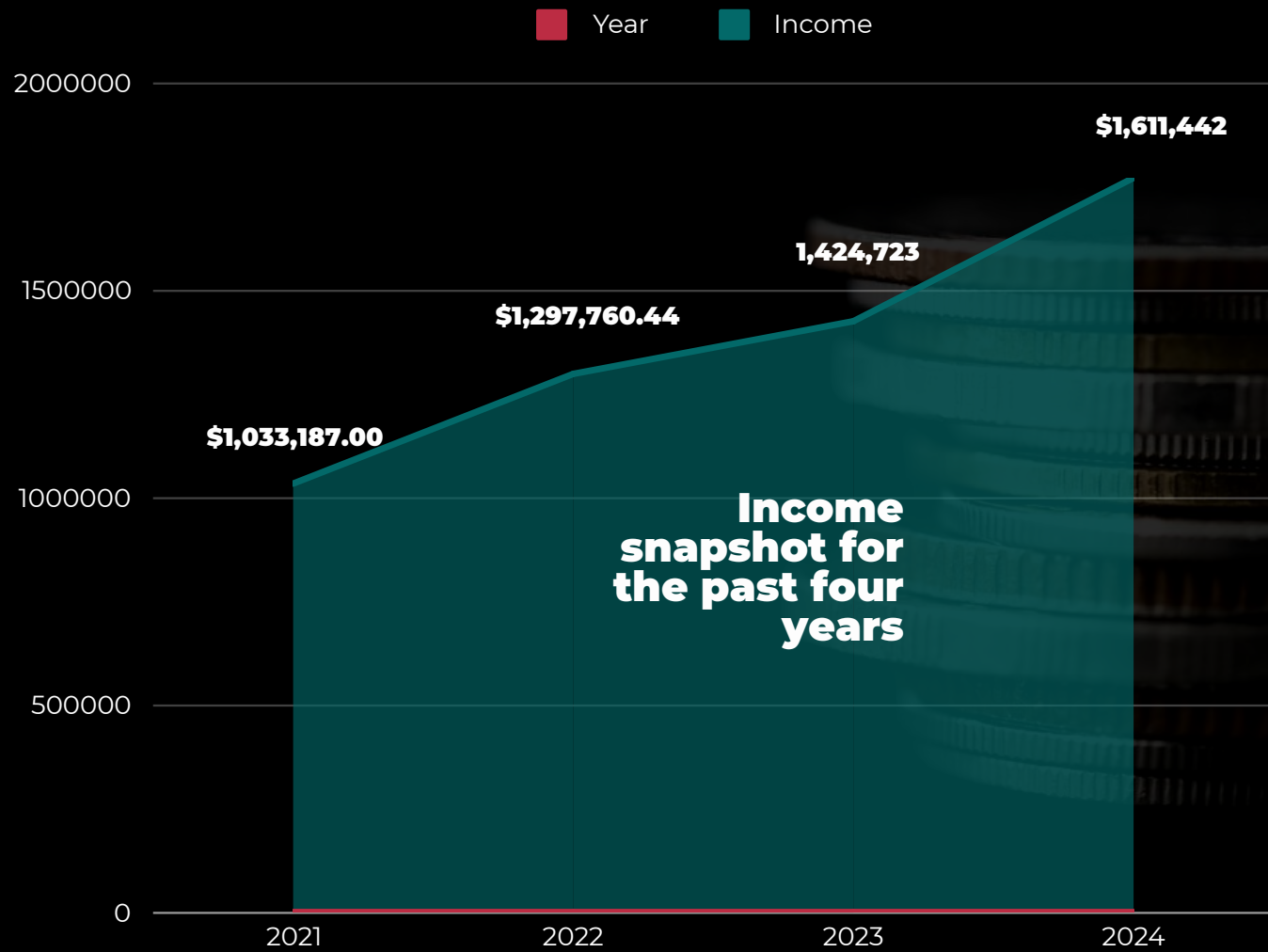
**Balance Brought Forward**  
**\$USD 25,788**

	<b>MK</b>	<b>USD\$</b>
<b>Programs</b>	1,954,827,325	279,101
<b>Operations</b>	488,706,832	1,116,406
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,443,534,157</b>	<b>1,395,507</b>

	<b>MK</b>	<b>USD\$</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle/Cycle</b>	34,231,153	19,549
<b>Office Furniture</b>	194,283,017	1110,955
<b>Equipment</b>	104,432,197	59,641
<b>Total Assets Exp</b>	<b>332,946,367</b>	<b>190,146</b>



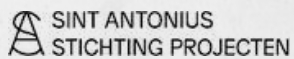
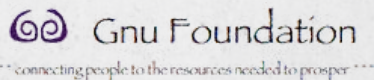
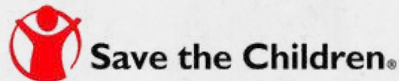






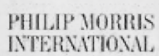
# Partners

Meet our strategic and funding partners



## New partners

We are thrilled to introduce the HOPE Project (Holistic Opportunities for Pupil Excellence), now strengthened by our newest partners: Philip Morris International, Age Africa, and CEYECE (Stared). Their commitment will help us reach marginalized children in Dowa and Kasungu, providing them with the educational support and holistic care they deserve. We thank God for bringing us together for this meaningful cause, and we look forward to uplifting more young lives through this powerful collaboration. We also celebrate our partnership with TJ Meyer Foundation that has committed to support our youth entrepreneurship program.







## Connect with us

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Blantyre-Malawi.

[@raysofhopemalawi](#)

