# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY





#### MALAWI: NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL INCREASES EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Project also accelerates evangelism and socio-economic community empowerment through education



Construction of a secondary school in the Anglican Diocese of Lake Malawi will provide 200 students with a chance to continue their education.

#### PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-0824-Malawi

Lead Ministry

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF LAKE MALAWI



LIVES IMPACTED 805

SECTOR Education

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$102,560

COST PER BENEFICIARY \$127.40

**TIMELINE 24 MONTHS** 

#### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Bringing a secondary school closer to our primary school will motivate and encourage our learners to work extra hard so they could be selected to Yissah Foundation Secondary School. Furthermore, this school will help to reduce the dropout rate, which is very high and common in the area, increase students' enrollment, and increase the number of students going to pursue (college) and vocational training. The coming of secondary school will also help the most vulnerable and needy students in the area to continue their studies at this institution as most of them have dropped out of school because their parents cannot afford paying their school fees and their travel costs."

 Esau Mkwamba, a teacher in Mkazimasika Primary School in Nkhotakota, Malawi

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**CONTEXT:** Barriers to secondary school education in Mkazimasika in Nkhotakota, Malawi, include a lack of resources, inadequate infrastructure, long distances to and from school, and a culture that favors boys over girls. Many young people's dreams are crushed by poverty while some high-performing female students complete only primary school due to a lack of school fees and access to safe and affordable accommodations. Such girls often get married at 15, 16, or 17. They are often married to older men and become child mothers stuck in a cycle of poverty.

**NEED:** Access to quality secondary education in the area is limited. In Malawi only 38.4% of students transition from primary school to secondary school. Of the two thirds of primary students who do not continue to secondary school, the vast majority are girls. Although there are 19 government-built secondary day schools and one boarding secondary school in Nkhotakota district, students in Mkazimasika must walk nine miles to the nearest day school and 16 miles to the only boarding school.

**SOLUTION:** Funds supplied by the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) will be used to build four classrooms, one administration block, and a well to supply clean water for students and teachers. Two blocks of six toilets each and a septic tank will be built to provide safe hygiene and sanitation. This project brings a secondary school closer to learners. Such access also increases the likelihood that qualifying students will continue their studies, thus improving retention rates, preventing early pregnancy and early marriage, and reducing HIV infections.

#### LIFE IMPACT

#### Benefits 805 people, some in multiple ways:

- 200 students will have access to quality secondary education. The school attendance and graduation rates are expected to improve.
- 15 families from the community will have employment opportunities in construction and selling food.
- 290 members of the community will make use of the school as a venue for community meetings, conferences, and evangelism events.
- 300 parents or guardians will be the indirect beneficiaries as they become champions for holistic education in the community.



## The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®

#### WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



"There are very few children who make it to secondary. Whilst primary school enrolment is currently

at 98 percent, one of the highest in the region, secondary school enrolment is very low, estimated at 15 percent in 2016 for both boys and girls. Out of nearly 5,000,000 learners in primary school, only around 400,000 learners make it to secondary school. Unless reversed, low secondary school enrolment has significant impacts on social and economic development of Malawi."

– https://www.unicef.org/esa/ sites/unicef.org.esa/files/2019-05/ UNICEF-Malawi-2018-Costing-Quality-Secondary-Education-for-all-Children.

"Access to education is a fundamental human right, yet in Malawi, this right remains a distant dream for many children. ... Malawi's lack of education has serious implications for the nation and its future generations. It reduces work opportunities, increases poverty, and keeps people in the cycle of illiteracy. Additionally, a lack of progress and development in the nation might be connected to education.

"One of the major obstacles to improving education in Malawi is a lack of funding. ... The World Bank reports that only 4.1% of Malawi's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is allocated to the education sector, making it one of the lowest in the world."

- https://brokenchalk.org/educationalchallenges-in-malawi/

#### PROJECT DESIGN

This joint project between the Anglican Diocese of Lake Malawi and Yissah Foundation Secondary School (YFSS) enhances the diocese's strategic vision for the local church including opportunities for encounters with God, evangelism, and discipleship opportunities. Preparation work for YFSS started in 2022. Consultations with community leaders and key stake holders are completed. A community baseline survey and consultative meetings were held and architectural designs are completed.

With funding, phase one of the project will be implemented in 2025. Construction starts with well tank, toilets and septic tanks, administration block, classrooms, and the headmaster's house. A construction supervisor will be hired through competitive bidding. A solar powered well will be built to provide water for construction work. The contractor will hire skilled and unskilled labor. YFSS and the school management committee will oversee the construction phase through regular site visits and during board meetings when progress against defined objectives and contractor invoices will be reviewed.

Clear student selection criteria is already in place:

- orphans and vulnerable children who were selected to go secondary school but dropped out due to a lack of funds for school fees and materials
- · girls who dropped out due to early marriage and teenage pregnancies
- students from across Malawi whose parents can afford to pay school fees
- students from an Anglican Church or family unable to attend national boarding secondary school due to financial challenges

Plans will help mitigate socio-cultural factors leading to low levels of education, including educational and spiritual mentoring of female students by Anglican Mothers Union; public advocacy against early marriage by the Anglican Church; and equipping local leaders to advocate for educating all children.

#### Measuring impact

YFSS will track enrollment, dropout, and retention rates for students; increased enrollment and attendance by female students; improved student health as a result of clean water and sanitation infrastructure; the number of students from YFSS enrolled in post-secondary education; and increased involvement in structured Scripture engagement and evangelistic activities by the church and students.

PROJECT BUDGET	SOURCES OF FUNDS		HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE		
ITEM 4 classrooms (40 seats per room) Administrative block Administration, monitoring, evaluation Headmaster's house 12 toilets	<b>ARDF REQUEST</b> \$40,000 \$23,913 \$18,647' \$5,217 \$4,348	LOCAL/OTHER	For \$362.33, you can supply one of 12 toilets needed for the new school.  For \$5,217, you can construct the headmaster's new home.  For \$10,000 you can construct one of four new classrooms that will serve 40 students.  NOTES		
Labor (contractor and local labor) New well Transportation of materials Septic tank TOTAL	\$4,348 \$3,261 \$1,522 \$1,304 <b>\$102,560</b>	\$14.726²	<sup>1</sup> includes project research, monitoring and evaluation by The Grid LLC; ARDF provides administration and communication to ensure full project funding <sup>2</sup> reflects donations from Tree of Life Anglican Church, USA (\$2,600); private sector in Malawi (\$6,000); YSSF board (\$1,900); and individual donors in Malawi (\$4,226)		
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### IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS\*

This project adheres to some or all of this sector's established best practices

INCOME	2022	%	2023	%
Local income	0		7,221	100
General external gifts	997	100	0	
TOTAL	997		7,221	
EXPENDITURES	2022	%	2023	
Program expenses	983		6,559	95%
Administrative and general expenses	0	100	318	5%
TOTAL	983		6,877	100%
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	14		344	

#### **NOTES:**

\*Income and expenditures of YISSHA Foundation Secondary School are reported in USD. YFSS is a project of the YISSHA Foundation, legally registered in Lilongwe, Malawi. The foundation has a strong partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Lake Malawi and has investments in primary education, land and infrastructure for the diocese. It has demonstrated the ability to mobilize and steward local funding. It has a strong track record in funding Anglican-run primary school and has relationships with the local department of education and businesses across Malawi. The proposed secondary school will run under the auspices of the local Archdeaconry, the bishop will serve in a advisory role.

**INCOME:** Donations equivalent to \$997 were received from Yissah Logistics in the USA to produce sketch maps and prepare architectural designs for the school. In 2023, donations received for the school amount to \$7,222 and make up 100% of total income for that year.

**EXPENSES:** Program expenses in 2022 amounted to \$983 and were spent on the intended program. In 2023, program expenses were \$6,559, accounting for 95% of total expenditures with only \$318, or 5% of total expenditure, going to administrative and general expenses. Accounts for 2022 were not externally audited. The account have been approved by the board and verified externally by a business and financial consultant who is ACCA. Spending was within available

#### **RISK ANALYSIS**



Low: 1, Low/Medium: 2, Medium: 3, Medium/High: 4, High: 5



#### **CONCEPT: 1**

The project targets a critical demographic, as 51% of Malawi's population is younger than 18. It has strong local church support. Community members are key stakeholders and have participated in the baseline studies, project design and implementation planning, and will be involved in decision-making through a school management committee.

#### **PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 2**

Extensive consultation and mobilization of parents and the broader community will prioritize the education of their children and contribute local resources such as sand and quarry. YFSS's marketing team has a communication plan to reach diverse stake holders within and outside the Anglican Church in Malawi. In addition to the focus on academic education, YFSS has partnered with St. Augustine Anglican Church to deliver spiritual guidance to students. Trained volunteers from the church will guide the students on how to strengthen their spiritual journeys with God, live Christcentered lives, and serve others.

#### **LEADERSHIP: 1**

Stewart Zimba, the CEO of YFSS, is an established businessman and philanthropist with a passion for improving living standards through education. He has an active 8-member board with solid academic backgrounds and extensive relevant skills and work experience needed to implement this project.

#### **FINANCIAL CONTROL: 2**

YFSS has an independent and active nine-member board with diverse relevant expertise for this project. An experienced finance management team is in place, along with a purchasing committee that will review quotes from three reputable vendors. Contractor payments will be made in phases based on negotiated and signed agreements.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY: 2**

YFSS has a long-term resourcing plan for the secondary school, including income from the purchase of grains during harvest for resale in the community; growing crops on YFSS land and selling them in the broader market; purchasing a school bus primarily for student use but also rented out; limited income from fee-paying students; and operational backup plans including solar power and a water tank.

#### **EXTERNAL: 4**

Malawi is holding elections in 2025 and unrealistic campaign promises are expected. While politicians may include this project in their campaigns, YFSS and project stakeholders will try to distance themselves from alignment with any political party. Malawi is a low-income land-locked country with an agro-based economy where 85% of the population rely on small scale farming for livelihoods. Any shock to this already fragile economy may impact school construction and community participation. Runaway inflation and currency devaluation may lead to materials shortages or higher costs. Finally, Malawi is a disaster-prone country.



#### **LEADERSHIP PROFILES**

Yissah Foundation Secondary School (YFSS) is led by a qualified team of experienced individuals with solid academic backgrounds and extensive work experience. Stewart Zimba has been the executive director for YFSS since 2016. His background includes:

- · bachelor's degree in logistics and supply chain
- sales and logistics manager at Yissa Logistics, Indiana
- logistician at Job Busters, Johannesburg, South Africa

Martha Makwenda is chairwoman of YFSS. Her background includes:

- a diploma in education from the Teachers' Training
   College-Lilongwe and 31 years of teaching experience
- Experience monitoring several primary school construction projects

Dellings Sadick Phiri is the HR director at YFSS and has over 18 years in school-based construction projects. His track record includes:

- · bachelor's degree in rural and community development
- · bachelor's degree in public health
- · project design and implementation experience
- program coordinator for Heart to Heart International, Malawi office
- project manager for Save the Children-Violence Against Children project, Malawi
- · environment health officer, Ntchisi district, Malawi

#### REFERENCES

"I have known Stewart Zimba and his parents for over nine years as an astute businessman and his passionate vision for improving the living standards of his community through education. His parents were Christian believers in a community that is predominantly Muslim. Stewart is carrying out the legacy of his parents who have donated land for a primary school and the local Anglican church. He has established healthy relationships with local leaders and the department of education, and is at the forefront of nongovernmental organizations working to complement government investments in education. The proposed secondary school will meet a critical need in a marginalized, low-income community where formal education is not often a priority for most parents and enrollment and dropout rates are high."

 Dr. Joseph Chunga, director for the Center for Social Research, University of Malawi

#### RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT



**Jane Wathome**Sr. Research Analyst
August 2024

I recommend this project because its target audience is clearly defined and meets a need prioritized by the community. It has strong local church ownership from the archbishop to the local parish level. YFSS executive leadership and governance is strong. However, as this is the first project of this category to be implemented by YFSS and the Diocese of Lake Malawi, and in consideration to the external

risks, periodic monitoring during implementation is recommended.

#### **IMPLEMENTER'S INSPIRATION**

"For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God."

- Hebrews 3:4

#### **HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT**

#### **PROJECT RECAP**

 ID ARDF-0824-Malawi

 Timeline 24 months

 Requested \$102,560

 Modified 092024

#### For info, write to ARDF:

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#### For donations, write to

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