

SCHOOLS LINKING MID-YEAR REPORT 2022

Background

Since the time that Sponsorship was introduced in 2005 in Salima and Kasungu, the Programme has helped many girls and boys, who are orphans and those with parents living in extreme poverty, to pay fees for their children. Many have been helped through secondary education, others continued through universities, colleges, and technical colleges. The Sponsorship programme has grown, and we have seen an increased number of students being sponsored both in secondary schools and colleges. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all our sponsors for their steadfast support and generosity.

Update on Progress

We have 150 students in different secondary schools and 30 students in different universities, colleges, and vocational training in the country. In the year 2021, 36 form 2 students wrote their Junior Certificate Examinations in their second year of secondary school and 35 students passed. We also had 35 form 4 students (in their fourth year) who wrote the Malawi School Certificate of Education and 28 passed.

Below is a table showing the results of national examinations for the years 2020 and 2021

National Examination Results for Starfish Sponsored Students

| EXAM | Results from National Exams | | | | Results from National Exams | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | |
| | Total number of students enrolled | Total number passed | Total number of students who Failed | Percentage Passed | Total number of students enrolled | Total number passed | Total number of students who Failed | Percentage Passed |
| JCE | - | | | | 36 | 35 | 1 | 97.2 |
| MSCE | 34 | 22 | 12 | 64.7% | 35 | 28 | 7 | 80% |

The government abolished JCE exams in 2015 due to financial restraints but these were reintroduced in 2021 – hence we don't have figures for JCE in 2020. From the figures above, we can see that the JCE pass rate was 97.2% in 2021. The pass rate for form 4 MSCE students has increased from 64.7% to 80%. The 2021 results revealed that overall a good number of students have passed with good grades and we are hoping that many will get selected for different universities and colleges.

As part of the sponsorship, students in secondary schools are also given pocket money and fares to transport to school and provided with a mosquito net, torchlight, scientific calculators, and English dictionaries just to mention a few. Girls are also given reusable sanitary pads and pants to enable them to not be absent during their monthly period.



Form 1 students of Salima Secondary School showing the Mosquito Nets they had Received.

This year, Starfish would like to hold a Youth Week in October 2022 – this is welcomed as the event was suspended for 2 years due to Covid-19. This is the time when all our sponsored students are gathered in one place in order to advise, encourage and motivate them to work hard in school and achieve their goals. We will invite influential people from different communities to speak to students. Among other things, students will receive shoes, clothes, and other gifts. Also, the best performing students receive special presents for their hard work.

Stories from Students

"I am **Shamima Phiri**, a form one student from Salima Secondary School. In September 2021, I wrote my primary school-leaving examination and in December 2021 I got selected from Kaputu Primary School to attend Salima Secondary School. I had mixed emotions as I knew that my mother could not afford to pay my school fees. My father died when I was very young, I am being raised by my mother who often gets ill and unable to work. My mother took me to the Starfish office to ask for help and I am grateful that I got accepted into the sponsorship program. I am now in school, thanks to my sponsor, with no worries about where my school fees will come from. I also receive transport fares, pocket money, books, pens, a mosquito net, and a sanitary kit from Starfish which helps with my studies. I have promised myself to work hard to achieve my goals of becoming a nurse".



Zebon Million a Student who got 11 points (6-42 range with 6 being the best grade), in his 2021 MSCE, with his Mother

Zebon's mother shared, "I Litaness Million, a mother to Zebon, am very much happy with what you have done to me. I did not expect my child to have finished his secondary school education when I heard that he had been selected for Nkhata bay Secondary School. Looking at the fees per term I knew that I could not afford them and take care of my extended family since I find money only through farming on my little farm.

It was his primary school teacher who encouraged me to seek help from Starfish and after some months, I received a letter that my son got lucky, and Starfish had found a sponsor that will be paying his fees. I was so happy after I heard the news and I thanked God for the blessing. I am a happy mother, my child got 11 points in his MSCE. I thank you for what you have done for me and my child, I appreciate your help, may God bless you all."



Princess Chirwa, graduated from the University of Malawi, The Polytechnic

"My name is **Princess Chirwa**, I recently graduated from the University of Malawi, the Polytechnic, I want to take this opportunity to thank Starfish teams both in UK and Malawi, for the great effort and love shown to me by helping me through my secondary education - if it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here today. Starfish also continued helping me with pocket money through my college.

I would like to like to encourage my fellow Starfish beneficiaries, especially girls. I was at Chipoka Secondary School between 2010 and 2014. Through these years Starfish had been my help and I took advantage of Starfish's program to work very hard until I got good points in my MSCE. I would like to encourage them that they do not have to look down on themselves or allow anyone to underestimate them.



I would like to say to beneficiaries to never give up, but rather should appreciate what they have (whatever Starfish, their Sponsors and their parents are doing for them). They should not be swayed by what their friends are doing in school; they should just focus on their studies. Most importantly, have a purpose in life as it will act as a driving force for their hardworking. Once again, thank you to Starfish and to our wonderful sponsors."