

2024 Annual Report



**FAITHFUL
FOOTPRINTS**
Steps that span
across nations

"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand." Psalm 37:23–24

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From the desk of our Leadership

"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."
(Psalm 37:23–24)

This year, our footprints have extended into some of the most remote and challenging regions of Africa and Latin America. I am deeply moved by the powerful image of the footprints in Psalm 37:23, which reminds us of how carefully and intentionally God guides our steps to the remotest villages and provides the firm guidance we need to stay on course despite inevitable challenges along the way. Our work in these areas is vital, and the importance of every mile travelled, and every effort made cannot be overstated.

Our paths led to both joyful and extremely sad situations in which we serve. Sadly, we lost one of our committed Malawi tutors, Evans, who passed away after a short illness. He worked tirelessly for the children even when his own health was failing. Tragically, we heard of the loss of two children from flood related circumstances and one from a snake bite.

The good news is:

1. Happily, through our partners, we reached **14 806 children** in **389 projects** and now have **658 volunteers** serving these precious children. We witnessed an increase in the demand for our education program from new countries, Bangladesh, Uruguay and Botswana.
2. Our curriculum offerings in **other languages** is growing and we offer them in Bangla, Spanish, Portuguese, Afrikaans and soon French.
3. Our **Level 1** Literacy and numeracy has been **upgraded** and now includes memory words, assessments and placement tests.
4. The development of our **new Level 2** literacy and numeracy lessons will be print ready by the end of November 2025.
5. Work For Life is a development program that teaches entrepreneurial skills to address unemployment. Our first **pilot Work For Life** program was launched with 8 trainees who rose to the challenge to start their own small business.
6. Through our OSWW partnerships, we are seeing **church planting** take place in OSWW communities, **new conversions**, an increase in **parental involvement** and requests for **adult literacy**.
7. Our team continued developing and implementing a **safeguarding** structure conducive to the Open Schools Worldwide community.



Angie Pape

Executive Director,
Open Schools Worldwide

Our work today echoes the historical missionary Dr David Livingstone's dedication which was rooted in his desire to serve God's purposes to bring the gospel of hope, healing, and faith to those in need on the African continent - we continue to traverse difficult terrains to reach children in the hardest-to-access places to bring the hope of Christ through education.

As we look ahead, we press on boldly and faithfully leaving footprints of hope, compassion, and love. No distance is too great as our journeys are underpinned by trust in God's unwavering hand.

With much love.



I am deeply encouraged by how the Lord continues to make firm the steps of Open Schools Worldwide. Even when we face stumbling blocks, He upholds us — just as Psalm 37:23–24 reminds us.

It's remarkable to see Open Schools Worldwide already reaching places we never even imagined, expanding in healthy ways, across a multitude of areas. With each passionate new leader joining the cause, we see God's mighty hand at work, growing and shaping our team.

I've also been encouraged by how the board has grown, working closely and effectively with our director. Bringing together global leaders for a week of planning, introspection, and team building was a significant step at the beginning of this year that will bear fruit for years to come.

Looking ahead, Vision for the Nations-2040 excites me with the opportunity to multiply our impact, establishing Open Schools Worldwide through many different entities that will carry the heart of Open Schools Worldwide into their own communities. This will leave footprints of hope and transformation across many nations.

To the entire team: thank you for your unity, courage, and resilience. You've pressed on with joy and effectiveness despite the very real challenges. The work you do is not easy, but it is profoundly worth it. May God continue to strengthen and guide each of you as we step forward together.



Brad Eyre

Chairman of the Board,
Open Schools Worldwide

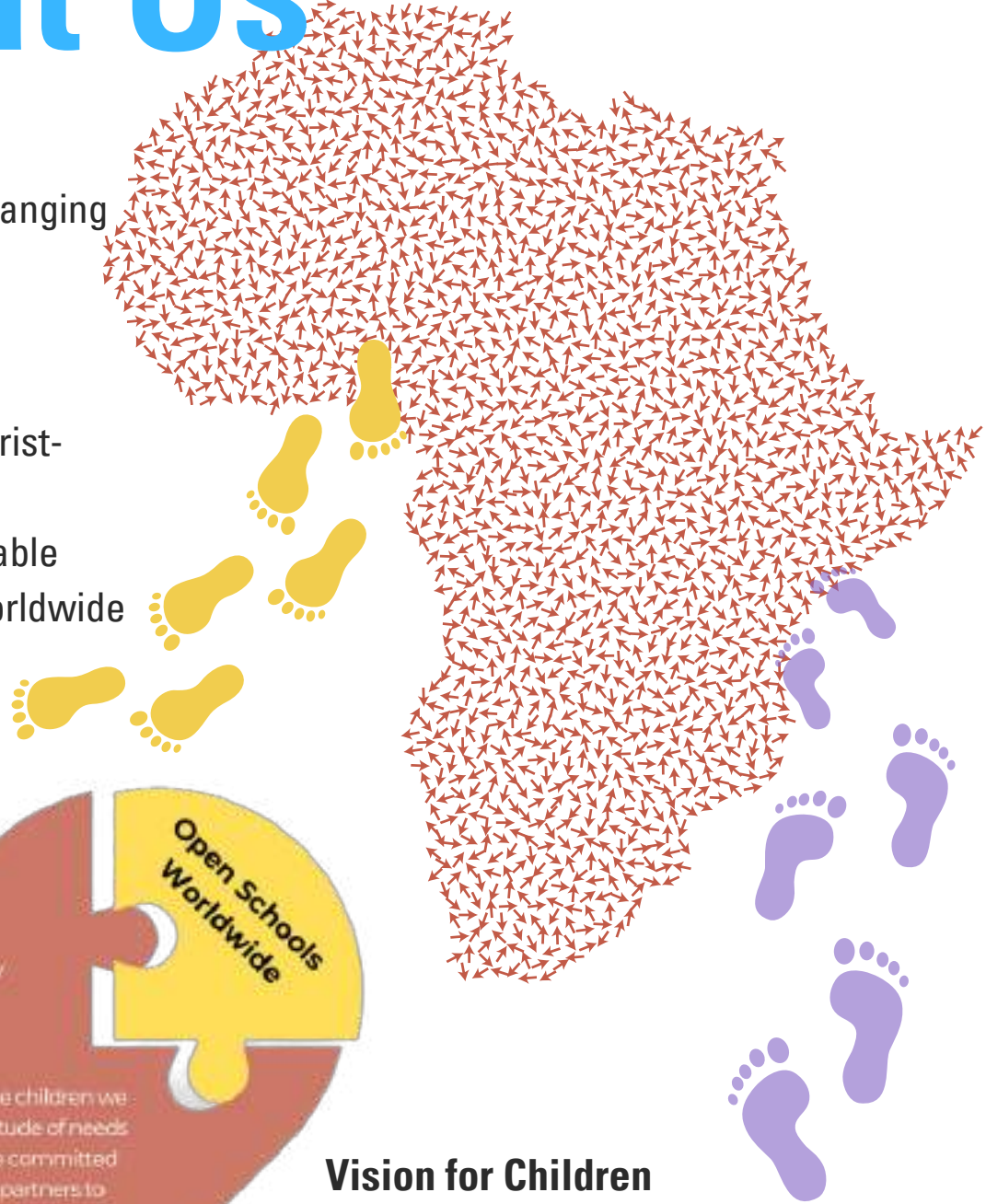
About Us

VISION

Hope Through Life-Changing Learning

MISSION

Design and deliver Christ-centered educational intervention to vulnerable children and youth worldwide



Vision for Children around the World

- To experience God's love
- To feel loved & valued
- To know they can learn
- To experience hope
- Address emotional & social needs

A Global Region of TeachBeyond

We are celebrating 22 years as a ministry to the marginalized and the milestone of five years being a part of the global TeachBeyond family.

We are profoundly grateful to God as our program now underscores the prophetic meaning of our name 'Worldwide'. He has expanded our pathway into 18 countries. We extend heartfelt appreciation to the country directors and facilitators whose dedication ensures that our partners and tutors are effectively trained, projects equipped, and monitoring and evaluation diligently conducted.

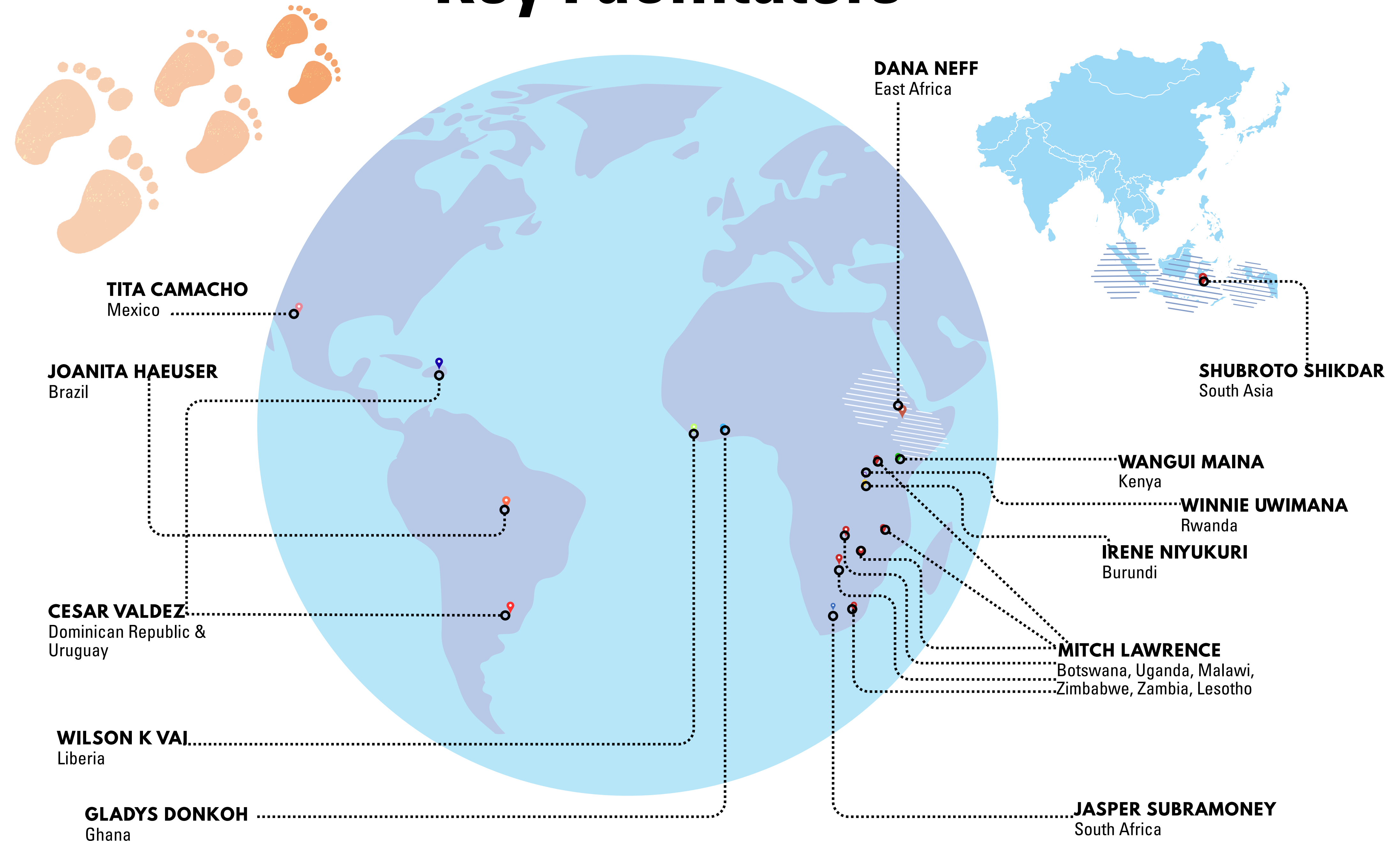
**By faith we have
stepped into being
a 'Region without
Borders'
underscoring the
word 'Worldwide'**



Key Facilitators



"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."
Psalm 37:23-24



Year in Review

Global Highlights 2024

Number of Projects

389

Number of Tutors

658

146

Number of new tutors trained



14, 806

Number of Children





**OPEN SCHOOLS
WORLDWIDE**
Bringing Hope Through
Life-Changing Learning

*"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."
Psalm 37:23–24*

5668 new children benefitted from our program in 2024



Training and monitoring conducted in 12 countries. More than 8000 workbooks printed.





New countries added: Uruguay, Botswana & Bangladesh

Establishing Footprints in their Nations Stories from Ghana, Malawi, Dominican Republic & Brazil

GHANA: Gladys Donkoh

The success of our program depends on mature Christian leaders from communities across the globe, two of our heroes are Joseph and Gladys Donkoh from Ghana. Their lives are shining examples of a godly couple that take their calling seriously, using education to transform their country.

Joseph, a Methodist minister, and Gladys, a retired teacher, have used their home as the first place of ministry since marrying in 1990, they have brought sixteen orphans into their home. Many of them have been raised and left the home but still they have four that are living with them.

Gladys, our key facilitator, has professionally been a teacher for over 40 years. Her experience and love make her the perfect advocate for the children at risk in Ghana. Her heart is that of a true teacher, even before getting her qualifications she was a peer tutor always trying to help others. She has taught and trained over 250 tutors and teachers from government schools on our program.

Her vision for Ghana is to help children in rural communities, especially those in the fishing, farming and market centers who have no access to education. She says, *"I pray for health and a long life so that I continue my work. Once a teacher always a teacher"*.



MALAWI: Precious Kholongo

Precious Kholongo has been part of Open Schools Worldwide since its inception in Malawi. Precious is committed to seeing the lives of children and tutors transformed in his communities through our Christ-centred program. He has shown leadership and creativity and is currently being trained as a facilitator, learning to train new tutors and conduct monitoring and evaluation visits. He says *"I am extremely glad that Open Schools Worldwide has challenged and developed my spiritual life. Before I start the lessons we always begin with prayer and recite Bible text so that the children may know about our wonderful Saviour the Lord Jesus, and that God the Father is their Creator. Our daily lives are a struggle - poverty, the lack of food, malaria and very few job opportunities make life challenging. But we trust in God that everything is possible. My favourite Bible verse comes from Matthew 28:18-20."*



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Cesar Valdez

Surprising footsteps have brought us to the Caribbean island of the Dominican Republic. Cesar Valdez, the TeachBeyond country director, knew that our program would be the perfect solution for the Haitian children residing in his country. He gathered a team who worked tirelessly to translate and contextualise our curriculum into Spanish. *"These children are Haitian boys and girls living in the Dominican Republic who are currently participating in our literacy program. Many of them have limited access to formal education, but through Open Schools Worldwide, they are learning to read and write, opening the door to a brighter future filled with hope and opportunity."*

BRAZIL: Portuguese logo

The Open Schools' Country coordinator for Brazil, Joanita Haeuser, finalized a new logo to be used in our Portuguese speaking regions.



"Changing our name was never about a simple translation. It was a journey of deep reflection, collaboration, and cultural understanding. We recognized that our English name didn't resonate with the communities we serve, where English isn't commonly spoken. So, we embarked on a meaningful process to find a name that truly represents our mission."

Joanita and the team partnered with a communications expert from TeachBeyond to explore who we are at our core.

"Our conversations went far beyond just selecting words—we delved into our fundamental identity: What do we do? Why is our work important? What essence do we want to communicate?"

After numerous discussions and careful consideration, we arrived at **Caneta & Coração** (Pen & Heart). This name beautifully encapsulates our holistic approach to education.

Our new name for the Portuguese speaking communities reflects our deepest organizational values: education that is practical, compassionate, and deeply meaningful.





Curriculum Translations and Development

Our curriculum has been successfully translated into Portuguese and Spanish, with the completion of the Bangli translation during 2024. Additionally, the development of the new Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy lessons is on track to be print-ready by the end of 2025.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to our dedicated curriculum writing team for their passion and commitment to advancing the ongoing education of our project learners.

'Work for Life': Skills development

8 Number of first trainees who have now begun their own businesses



The Work for Life program is a curriculum designed to be delivered by local trainers who provide weekly entrepreneurship training. The program covers the essentials of business management grounded in biblical principles.

The Work for Life training encompasses biblical principles of income generation, business plan development, administration, sales processes, financial management, and human resource management. Our team trained the first 8 trainees who began their own small businesses selling bread, producing vegetable gardens and generating income from the use of solar panels.

Operational Highlights



Departmental report: Collaboration between Global Regions in TeachBeyond

One of the highlights of 2024 was our Global Leadership Conference in Albania. This was an important time for TeachBeyond global leaders to connect, and the Open Schools Worldwide team were intentional to make the most of the days.

As a designated Global Region, we are not limiting our work to a certain area but go where we can partner where marginalized learners live. The same is true for our sister Global Region, Beyond Borders, whose role is to work with displaced people. We were able to spend quality time together strategizing how we can collaborate utilizing the many resources we both offer to help the respective beneficiaries we both support. It was a joy to see how our missions aligned, and our curriculum was a good fit for the Beyond Borders work with children and young adults who are struggling with displacement, language acquisition, and no access to formal schooling. As a result of our time together our first joint project has started in Athens, Greece.



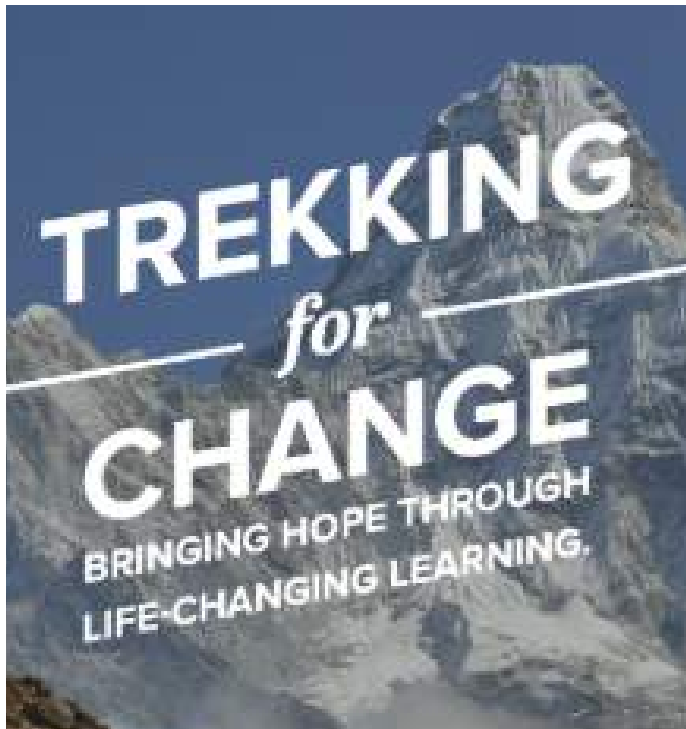
Kilometers for Kids 2024: People on the Move to Support Open Schools Worldwide



Participants from 13 countries on 4 continents took part in “Kilometers for Kids” 2024. They either ran, walked, or biked and raised donor pledges for every kilometer they completed. Participants included walkers in the UK, Kenya, Australia, South Africa and Germany; as well as runners in Switzerland and New York and bikers in Georgia. Groups of children from our projects took to the streets and walked through their communities, singing, chanting, wearing Kilometers for Kids running bibs and carrying home-made signs creating awareness of KM4K, Open Schools Worldwide, education, and God’s love. This happened in South Africa, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, and Malawi.

The donations were used to produce both children’s literacy and numeracy workbooks, as well as training resources in Malawi, Uganda, Burundi and Liberia.





I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1,2)

On 16th October 2024, five Canadian men, a Nepalese guide and three porters set off on foot from Soti Khola in Nepal upwards into the higher regions of the Himalayas and Manaslu base camp.

This special event, a first for Open Schools Worldwide called 'Trekking for Change' was a fundraiser to generate funds for two projects in Malawi. The team crossed over deep gorges on narrow suspension bridges, sometimes over half a kilometer in length, passed through various mountain villages, and found lunch stops and accommodation in local "tea houses" along the trail. The team faced the challenges of rigorous exercise, lower levels of oxygen, unaccustomed diet and water, motion sickness, dehydration and numerous physical and emotional challenges.

'The best aspect of the trek, was the fact that we weren't just going through this for our own personal gain and fulfillment, but that we knew that the whole reason for the trek was to enable hundreds of needy children in Malawi who otherwise would not have the opportunity to receive "life-changing learning" through the program of Open Schools Worldwide'. **(Phil Peters, Director Advancement)**

***How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion 'Your God reigns!'* (Isaiah 52:7)**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2024, 59% of expenditures were dedicated to Project Development & Support, with 17% allocated to Future Projects, 13% to Operational Expenses, 6% to Project Travel, and 5% to Project Costs. These financial highlights reflect the steady footsteps taken to sustain and expand our impact, ensuring every investment brings hope through life-changing learning. With heartfelt gratitude, we thank all donors and supporters whose generosity this year has enabled us to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and communities.



GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

We are sincerely appreciative of the insight, strategic guidance and support of the global Open Schools Worldwide Board. Their unwavering dedication has been pivotal in steering and shaping our future vision.



B. Eyre, Board Chairman



R. Owen, Vice Chairman



D. Steyn, Secretary



Dr B. Callan, Member



H. Dueck, Member



Dr. A McIlhenny, Co-Founder



Prof. E Mbennah, Member



E. Mokoena, Member



J. Subramoney, Member



M. Lawrence, Member

Stakeholder Recognition



WDR team visit

With great joy we welcomed the team from the World Development Relief (WDR) from Ireland who visited Open Schools Worldwide in 2024.



A special message from Tim Dunwoody, Team Leader for World Development and Relief

'The circumstances in which the Open Schools Worldwide's students live, volunteer tutors teach, and staff travel and train can be harsh. And yet, Open Schools Worldwide perseveres. The Lord does indeed seem to uphold them and their work. With Open Schools Worldwide, WDR also believes that education can be a hand-up out of poverty and that the love of God for the vulnerable is being lived out in very real terms through these programmes. Irish Methodist World Development & Relief (WDR) continues to be inspired by Open Schools Worldwide. We say we walk with Open Schools Worldwide but in reality, we follow along and behind as they trailblaze and change lives in Christ's name'.



Thank you to Connect Network for recognizing and honouring Open Schools Worldwide for its sound financial practices and operational excellence. Open Schools Worldwide participated in their 'Quality Improvement System' (QIS), an internationally accredited organisational capacity building programme aimed at small to medium sized Christian non-profit organisations working with children.

Looking Ahead

Aligning for Vision 2040: Vision for the Nations

 **TeachBeyond** David Durance, president of **TeachBeyond**, introduced '**Vision for the Nations**', a 15-year strategic plan to facilitate the movement of Transformational Education for all who seek it in our generation and the generations to come. The goal is that in the next 15 years, TeachBeyond will support and facilitate a vibrant Christocentric Transformational Educational movement to more than 1,000,000 learners in more than 100 countries through our national entities.

In the years ahead, **Open Schools Worldwide**, will be at the forefront of Vision for the Nations as we step into working with new national entities supporting local projects with our global infrastructure of curriculum, tutor training, and monitoring and evaluation.

Please pray with us for God's grace, wisdom, and resources as we desire to be a big part of this God sized dream.



Stepping into New Initiatives: Creative Access

Looking forward with our desire to bring hope through life-changing learning, wherever opportunities are brought forward in places that might be closed to the gospel, Open Schools Worldwide has begun working on formatting our curriculum that would be appropriate for these areas. This does not change our message but allows us to enter places that might not be open to Christian ministries operating in their locations. With our Creative Access curriculum placed in the hands of godly tutors, they can bring transformation to their local communities. Please pray for 2025 and beyond as we step into this new calling.

FIVE

STEPS OF HOPE THROUGH LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING



**OPEN SCHOOLS[®]
WORLDWIDE**
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

- 1. Partner**
A local partner (Christian community group, NPO's or Christian schools) approaches Open Schools Worldwide to utilize our literacy, numeracy, and life skills program.
- 2. Identify**
The partner identifies the project needs as well as potential Christians in the community to serve as volunteer tutors.
- 3. Train**
Open Schools Worldwide trains, empowers, and equips local volunteer tutors.
- 4. Teach**
The volunteer tutors teach the children basic literacy, numeracy, and life skills using ministry moments to build a biblical worldview.
- 5. Monitor**
Open Schools Worldwide supports local projects with monitoring, evaluation, and volunteer tutor development.

Our Impact

- 20+ years serving marginalized children
- 50,000+ children reached globally
- Programs in diverse settings from tree classrooms to church buildings

Program Benefits

- Flexible: Adapts to local tutor availability
- Cost-effective: No formal classroom needed
- Learner-directed: children progress at their own pace

Our Vision

- Children who:
- Experience God's love
 - Recognize their ability to learn
 - Develop skills for future education
 - Acquire essential life skills
 - Find hope for their future

Connect with us



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