

# **Malaika Orphanage Foundation**

## **2024 Activity Report**

### **1. Introduction**

At Malaika Orphanage Foundation, our mission is to provide the most vulnerable and orphaned children in Tanzania with a safe, nurturing environment and a pathway to a sustainable future. We strive to offer not just shelter but a home where children can regain their sense of safety, enjoy regular meals, and embrace the joys of childhood while equipping them to become self-reliant, responsible citizens.

#### **The Situation in Tanzania**

Tanzania is home to thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children, many of whom face uncertain futures due to poverty, neglect, and lack of access to education. Without organizations like Malaika Orphanage Foundation, many of these children would be left on the streets, exposed to exploitation, malnutrition, and the risks of dropping out of school. Government assistance for orphaned children remains limited, making our work essential in bridging the gap and offering these children a fighting chance at a better future.

#### **A Year of Challenges and Achievements**

2024 was a year of progress, resilience, and new challenges. We witnessed inspiring successes such as children excelling in school, young adults transitioning to independence, and families being reunited. But we also faced difficulties, such as education gaps: Many children arrive having missed years of schooling, requiring extra support to catch up as well as rising costs: Inflation and increased demand for resources like food, healthcare, and school supplies stretched our budget.

Despite these challenges, our work would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. Their support has allowed us provide crucial assistance to hundreds of children, ensuring their access to education, healthcare, and stable living conditions.

However, challenges remain, and your support continues to make a life-changing impact. As you read this report, we hope you see the real impact of your support in every child who finds a home, every student who graduates, and every young adult who steps into the world with confidence.

### **2. Overview of Programs**

Our approach begins with family reintegration whenever possible. When a child is brought to us by the Social Welfare, our first step is to search for (distant) family members who may be able and willing to care for the child. While this process is underway, the child is cared for at our 'Reception Home' (RH), which serves as a temporary sanctuary. For children in need of ongoing assistance, whether reunited with family or already living with relatives, we enroll them in our Relative Support Program (RSP), providing support for their education, nutrition, and overall well-being based on their specific needs.

For children who cannot be reunited with family due to unavailability or unsuitable circumstances, we provide a long-term solution at our Children's Village in Mkuranga (CVM). Designed to replicate a family environment, the village consists of homes where small groups of children, aged 1 to 14, live with a dedicated 'mother.' This arrangement fosters close bonds among the children, allowing older children to mentor and care for the younger ones. At the heart of our efforts is the creation of a loving and stable environment where every child can thrive and build a better future.



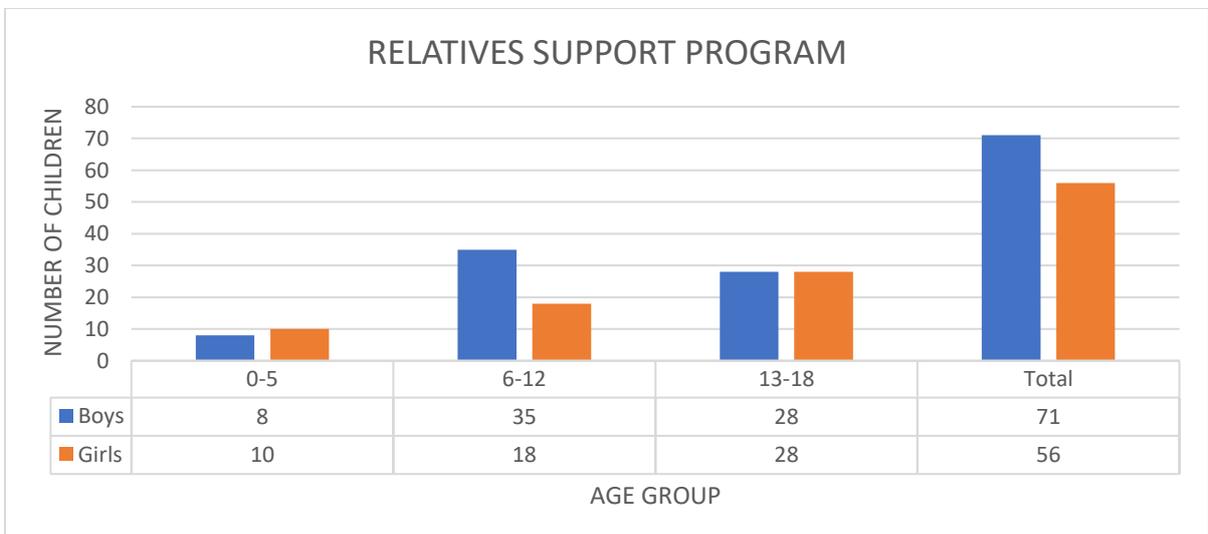
### 3. Numbers of Children

The table below summarizes the numbers and movement of children within the organization during the year 2024.

Malaika Orphanage Foundation (MOF)	Relatives Support Program (RSP)	Reception Home (RH)	Children's Village Mkuranga (CVM)	Total
<b>Number of Children (1/1/2024)</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>228</b>
New Arrivals	+12	+7	+5	+24
Transfers within MOF		+5 (From CVM) -4 (To CVM)	-5 (To RH) +4 (From RH)	
Children reunited with families/ Found new foster homes		-7	-6	-13
MOF Leavers	-7	-9	-1	-17
Absconded		-1	-1	-2
<b>Number of Children (31/12/2024)</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>220</b>

### 4. Relatives Support Program (RSP)

In 2024, we supported a total of 127 children living with extended families within the community. We began the year with 115 children and welcomed 12 new ones during the year. Support for six children concluded in accordance to our program guidelines. Sadly, we experienced the loss of one young boy during the year.



## 4.1. Education

Ensuring access to quality education remains also for our RSP children at the heart of our mission. In 2024, we provided every school-going child with essential learning materials including school uniforms, shoes, bags, books, and stationery removing financial barriers that often keep children from attending school. Our RSP mediators played a crucial role in monitoring attendance and progress, ensuring that every child stayed engaged in their education.



## 4.2. Health and wellbeing

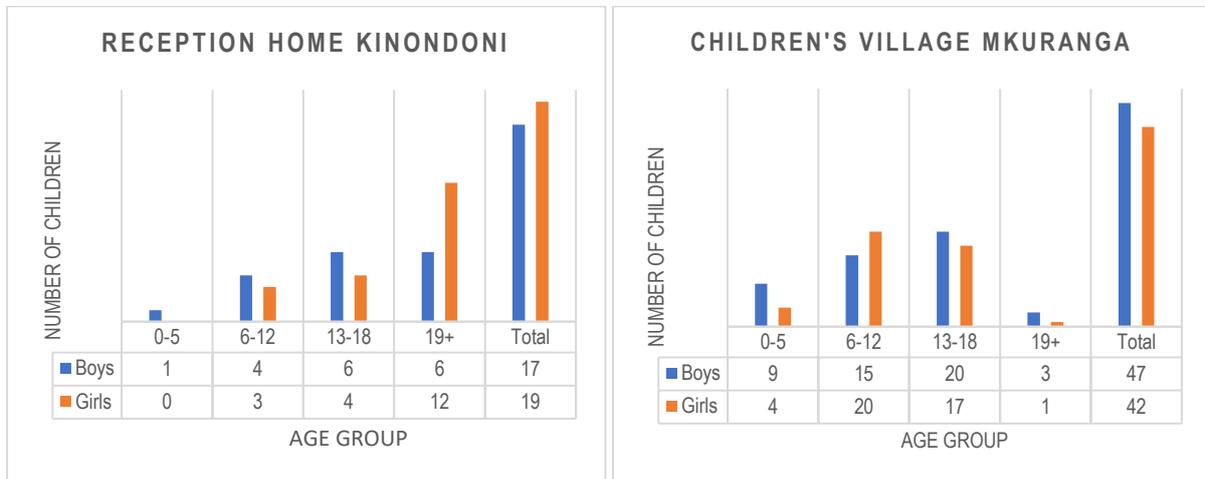
RSP mediators conducted regular home and school visits to monitor the children's progress and provide necessary support. Monthly food parcels including rice, corn flour, beans, sugar, and cooking oil were distributed, along with fresh vegetables or fruits provided bi-weekly. These provisions supported not only the children but also their siblings and caregivers. Hygiene products, such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary pads, and diapers, were also supplied to maintain proper hygiene standards. We were also fortunate to have a volunteer doctor who conducted general health check-ups for the children and provided valuable recommendations to further support their well-being.



With your support, we can expand our reach, strengthen our programs, and ensure that every child in the RSP has a chance to succeed. Your generosity makes all the difference in their journey toward a healthier, brighter future.

### 5. Reception Home (RH) & Children’s Village Mkuranga (CVM)

In 2024, we cared for a total of 125 children for varying lengths of time at our children’s homes in Kinondoni (RH) and Mkuranga (CVM).



We began the year with 113 children in both the reception home and the children’s village. While most children in full-time care have been with us for extended periods, some were temporarily placed in our care by the Social Welfare Office. These children were found lost on the streets, physically or sexually abused, or orphaned.

During the year, we received 12 new children referred by the Social Welfare Offices in Kinondoni and Mkuranga. Additionally, 13 children were successfully reunited with their families following thorough casework and reintegration efforts.

We ensured that all children in our care received their basic needs, including daily nutritious meals, clothing, and safe shelter at both the reception home and the children’s village.

10 older children transitioned out of our care to live independently, marking a significant milestone in their journey toward self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, two children absconded during the year.



## 5.1. Education and Extracurricular Activities

Education is the foundation of a child's future, and in 2024, helped by a number of generous donors, we were able to ensure that all children under our care had access to quality education by covering tuition fees, uniforms, books, and school supplies. Our efforts supported children across different education levels: 19 children were in daycare and nursery school, 44 children attended different primary schools, 2 attended a special school and 26 children various different secondary schools.



We firmly believe that proper education is crucial in breaking the cycle of poverty and equipping our children with the knowledge and skills they need for a better future. However, we often face significant challenges in ensuring this, as many children who come into our care have missed years of schooling. Some have had irregular access to education due to difficult family circumstances, while others have never been enrolled in school before. These gaps in education require us to provide intensive support to help them catch up with their peers.

To address this, we have implemented special programs for children struggling academically. We provide extra tutoring, guidance, and, where necessary, place them in schools or programs that can accommodate their needs. We also work closely with teachers and schools to track their progress and find solutions to any academic or behavioral difficulties they may face.

In 2024, 8 children sat for their standard 7 national examinations. We are very proud that they have all passed and are selected to join secondary school in 2025. 4 children sat for their form 4 national examinations and have also all passed and will be joining college or vocational training in 2025.

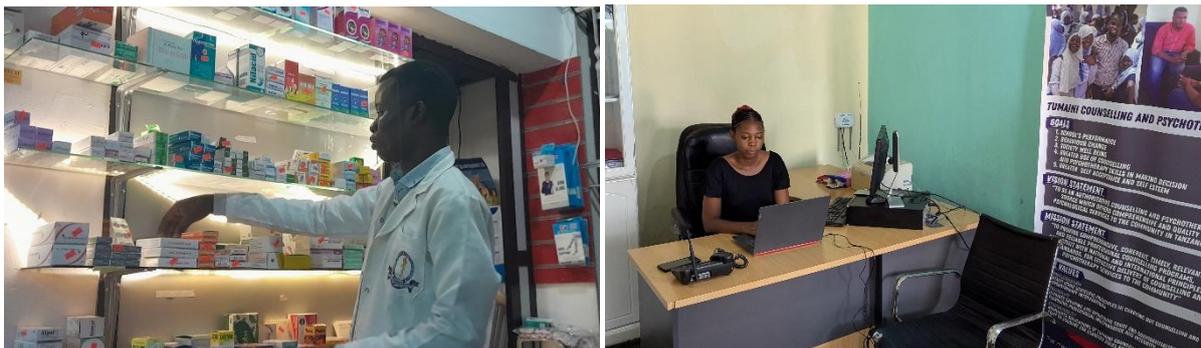
6 children participated in various vocational training programs in fields such as carpentry, welding and fabrication, electrical installation, and hairdressing. Meanwhile, 11 children pursued different college courses, including accounting, clearing and forwarding, social work, pharmaceutical sciences, IT, records management, tourism, and early childhood education, at various institutions in Dar es Salaam.



In 2024, six children successfully completed their studies. 2 graduated from vocational training programs in carpentry and welding and metal fabrication, 2 earned diplomas in pharmaceutical sciences and freight clearing, forwarding, and port management and 2 others completed bachelor's degrees in social work and accounting.



While seeking employment, some of these graduates began internships or volunteer roles in their respective fields to gain experience and further their career prospects.



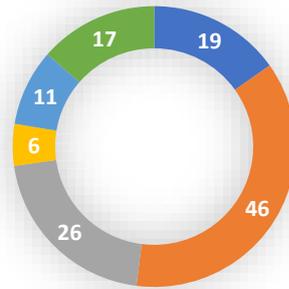
Additionally, on-site educational programs were provided to 5 children who stayed with us temporarily before being reunited with their families.

We celebrated that ten children successfully found jobs and transitioned out of our care, marking a positive step toward independence.



The chart below sums up the data provided above.

Education Level	No. of Children
Daycare & Nursery	19
Primary & Special School	46
Secondary	26
Vocational Training	6
College	11
Not in school	5 (Temporary placement) 12 (Work experience)
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>



At the children's village, we offer computer classes twice a week for all children in our dedicated computer room. We also maintain a well-stocked library with children's books and school textbooks to support their learning and development. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, who contribute books, laptops, and other educational materials, these resources continue to improve, providing the children with even better learning opportunities.



In addition to our regular academic support, we also encourage children to participate in other educational programs that build critical thinking and communication skills. For instance, we organize debates on thought-provoking topics. On 9th December, in celebration of Independence Day, we held a debate on the topic: 'Are Tanzanians enjoying the fruits of independence?'

It was truly inspiring to see the children passionately express their thoughts and perspectives on the future of their country. Such activities not only enhance their public speaking skills but also help them develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and their role in shaping it.

Our children actively participate in household chores, including assisting with cooking, cleaning, washing, small maintenance tasks, and helping out on the farm.



In addition, on weekends and during holidays, we take the children on various educational and recreational outings, such as visits to the beach and a nearby forest reserve. These trips aim to broaden their horizons, expose them to new experiences, and provide opportunities for socialization and personal growth.

During the end-of-term school holidays in June, we took a number of children to one of the largest shopping malls in Dar es Salaam. The objective was to introduce them to different professions and services people engage in. We also celebrate major holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and Eid, ensuring that the children experience the joy and significance of these occasions.



Some of these outings also serve as a reward for children who have shown significant academic improvement or exhibited commendable behavior. In addition to these activities, various programs were conducted to motivate children in their education, encouraging them to work harder academically and improve their overall behavior.

To close the year on a high note, we organized a celebratory dinner with the children, recognizing and honoring the older children who graduated in 2024. This was a meaningful moment to acknowledge their achievements and encourage them as they step into the next phase of their journey.



## 5.2. Health and Well-being

All necessary hygiene products, including soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers and sanitary pads, were provided to all children in our care. Aside from minor viral infections, there were no major health issues. For any health concerns, children were treated at local hospitals.

In cases involving more complicated health conditions, children were referred to Muhimbili National Hospital, where they received specialized care from experts. One of the key challenges we faced in 2023 was the change in the process for acquiring Toto Afya Health Insurance through the National Health Insurance Fund. This situation led to an increase in hospital bills for us, particularly for children with complex health needs who required high-cost tests/investigations or hospital admissions.



Fortunately, recently some progress in obtaining health insurance for the children in our care in 2024 was made. Several schools attended by our children began to register with NHIF, enabling us to enroll 24 children in those secondary schools and colleges during the second half of the year. Additionally, we successfully registered 31 children living at the Reception Home in Kinondoni for Community Health Fund (CHF) health insurance. Unfortunately, the remaining children for now continue to be uninsured.

Children continue to engage in various sports and games to stay active and promote their health. Every evening, for 1-2 hours, all children and staff participate in activities such as football, volleyball, netball, and board games. Several donations helped us to renew equipment such as a volleyball net, footballs and other sports equipment. Additionally, we updated the small playground for the younger children to enjoy.

In addition to physical health, the mental well-being of the children in our care is essential to their overall development. To address this, various structured programs were implemented to support the mental and emotional needs of the children. These programs included guidance and counselling sessions, which helped identify the unique challenges faced by each child and provided crucial support systems. Some of these programs were led by volunteers from local organizations within the community.



## 6. Young adults leaving our care

At Malaika Orphanage Foundation, our mission extends beyond providing care. We empower young adults to build independent, self-sufficient lives. Transitioning out of care is a significant milestone, and we ensure they step into the world with confidence and stability. Upon securing a paying job, we support young adults by covering six months of rent and providing them with essential items to help them transition to independent living. In 2024, we proudly witnessed 10 young adults successfully transition out of our care, securing jobs and moving toward financial independence. Their journeys serve as inspirations for the younger children, proving that with support, determination, and education, they can achieve their dreams.

However, this transition is not without challenges. Many young adults still struggle to find stable jobs and require additional vocational training, career guidance, and mental health support.



## 7. Agriculture

At the children's village in Mkuranga we have a farm where we grow different crops to supplement our food requirements while also teaching our children valuable agricultural skills. We continue to grow different crops such as greens, fruits, cassava, sweet potatoes and mushrooms to mention a few. Our extension officer from the local government has always been very helpful. She introduced to us a new farming method of growing crops in bags. This has reduced workload with a promise of high yield. We are growing crops like cucumber and pepper in the bags. We shall soon start to grow other crops like tomato, green pepper and okra.



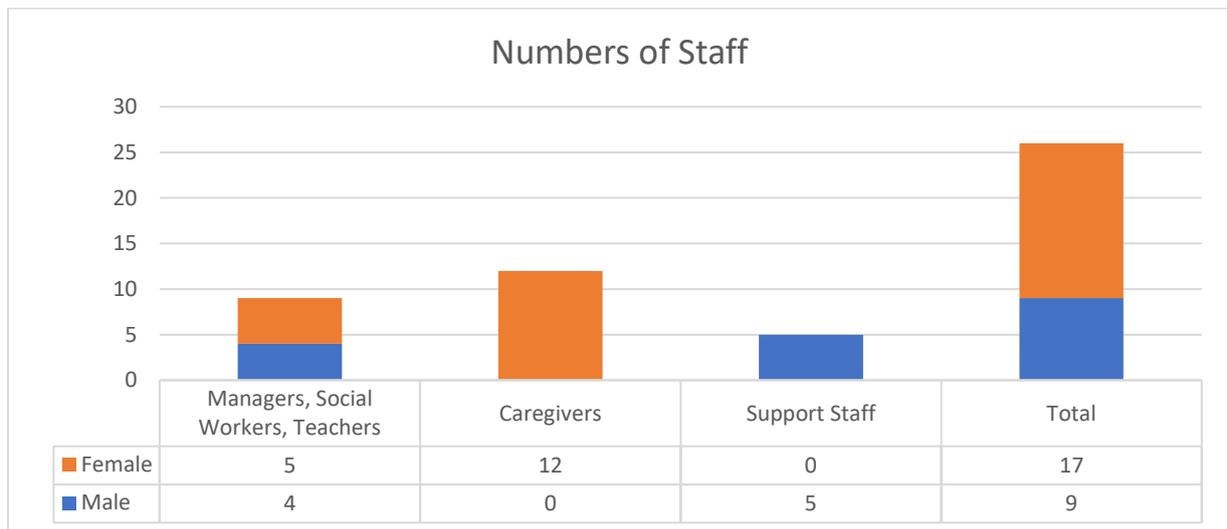
We had great success with mushrooms when we started earlier in the year. However, the second round presented some challenges due to the hot weather, which isn't ideal for mushroom growth. Through this experience, we learned that mushrooms thrive in cooler conditions, making year-round production difficult. Despite the challenges, we thoroughly enjoyed eating them



Overall, our farm contributed approximately **8%** to our total food costs in 2024. While small in scale, this effort helps reduce expenses and provides fresh, nutritious food for the children. We aim to build on these successes and explore further improvements in agricultural practices to maximize our farm’s contribution in the coming years.

### 8. Staff

Our team is made up of dedicated individuals who play a critical role in ensuring the smooth operation of our programs and the well-being of the children under our care. As of this year, we have a total of 26 staff members.



Our diverse team reflects a shared commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of the children. We continue to prioritize the well-being and development of our staff to enhance their ability to serve effectively.

As part of our annual practice, all staff members participated in a three-day refresher course covering topics such as child development, building relationships, and effective communication with children. The sessions were highly engaging, with staff actively sharing concerns and challenges they face in caring for the children. By the end of the course, constructive solutions were developed to address these issues, ensuring a stronger and more supportive caregiving environment.



We are pleased to note that 2024 was a year of stability, with no staff turnover. Retaining our experienced team has allowed us to maintain continuity in caregiving, strengthen relationships with the children, and build on our collective experience to improve our programs.

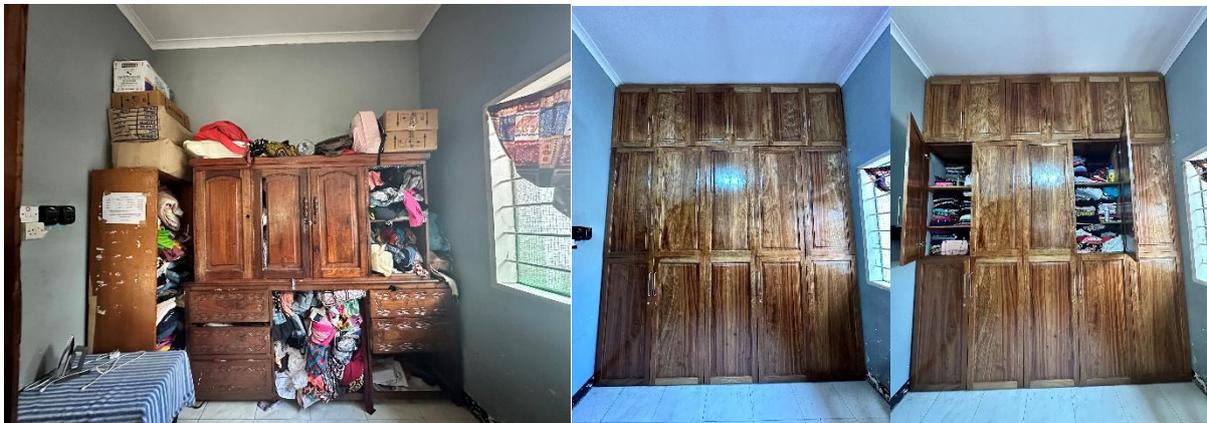
## 9. Critical Needs

While we celebrate our successes, we are also incredibly grateful for the generous support we received from our donors in 2024. Thanks to your contributions, we were able to complete several key maintenance projects that have significantly improved the living conditions and well-being of the children in our care. Among the major achievements made possible through donor support were:

- **A New Car for the Reception Home:** Replacing the aging vehicle has ensured safe and reliable transportation.



- **Upgraded Living Spaces:** Previously, at the reception home many children stored their clothes in worn-out cupboards or bags, which was especially challenging for older children who need personal space. With donor support, we replaced old, damaged cupboards, ensuring that each child now has their own dedicated storage space.



- **Improved Sanitation Facilities:** Renovations to the toilets at the reception home have greatly enhanced hygiene and comfort for the children.



These improvements have made a meaningful difference in our ability to provide a safe, nurturing, and well equipped environment for every child.

As we look ahead, there are still important areas where we aim to enhance our support and continue improving the quality of care:

- **Expanding Educational Opportunities:** As we continue to prioritize quality education, we aim to ensure that all children have access to tuition fees, school supplies, and vocational training.
- **Strengthening Healthcare Access:** We remain committed to providing comprehensive healthcare for every child, including medical check-ups, treatments, and health insurance coverage to safeguard their well-being.
- **Enhancing Nutrition Programs:** Proper nutrition is essential for healthy growth and development. We strive to provide well-balanced meals and essential food items to support the overall health of the children.
- **Providing Psychosocial Support:** Many of the children in our care have experienced difficult pasts. Expanding access to counseling and mental health programs ensures they receive the emotional support they need to heal and thrive.
- **Enhancing Kitchen Facilities:** We are in urgent need of replacing our current stoves with durable brick firewood stoves. These stoves will provide a more sustainable and efficient cooking solution, reducing maintenance issues while improving cooking conditions for our staff and children. Additionally, in the future, these stoves can be converted to gas, making them a long-term investment in cleaner and more efficient cooking.
- **Renewing the deck of the watertower:** Maintenance of infrastructure is essential for daily operations, and replacing the water tower deck will help ensure a stable and reliable water supply.
- **Replacing Broken Chairs:** Many of the chairs at the reception home dining area and the children's village are old and broken. Replacing them is essential to ensure a comfortable and functional space for the children and staff during meals and gatherings.

Through the generosity of our donors, we can continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of these children. Your support ensures that they receive not only basic necessities but also the tools and opportunities needed to build a brighter future. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps shape their journey toward independence and success.