# **2024** QUARTER 4 IMPACT REPORT

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ENGLISH

### BRAZIL

We were reminded of the incredible ways God has blessed our programs in Brazil throughout the year. With 190 children and teens participating across our two learning centers, this quarter was full of milestones, celebrations, and impactful moments. One of the biggest honors this quarter was receiving the "Social Merit" award in December, recognizing our programs for their significant social impact in Goiânia. This acknowledgment is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of our team, and we give all the glory to God!

Celebrating the Christmas season was particularly special this year. After weeks of preparation and practice, our children presented a Christmas Cantata to their family and friends. Children performed songs and dramas, celebrating the birth of Christ while sharing the message of the Gospel with families and guests.

Alongside the Christmas Cantata, our programs hosted community events to support those in need. One learning center held its second annual "Pizza do Bem," treating children in unlimited pizza while providing 35 vulnerable families with food baskets. Another center distributed food baskets to 30 families, ensuring no child or family in our program went without during the holidays.

The children participated in other fun activities this quarter. Our thriving Judo program recently held a belt ceremony with a record 225 participants! This event was not just about sport, it was about discipline, perseverance, and teamwork. Another exciting development was our students' visit to a Technology Fair, where they explored innovations in robotics, engineering, and digital learning. This hands-on experience opened their eyes to new career possibilities and showed them how technology is shaping the future.

We expanded our discipleship efforts at one of our learning centers by introducing small group sessions once a week, allowing for deeper spiritual growth. Meanwhile, our other learning center continued to provide structured discipleship groups, ensuring that every child has a strong faith foundation to guide them in life.

As we think back on God's faithfulness in 2024, we enter 2025 with grateful hearts and high expectations for all He will do in the year ahead. With God's help, we will continue to expand educational, health, and discipleship initiatives while ensuring that every child in our programs receives the love, care, and support they need to thrive.





# **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Dominican Republic programs remained steadfast in their mission to serve over 1,000 children across multiple centers. Despite economic difficulties, health challenges, and ongoing tensions caused by regional instability in Haiti, our team and students ended the year with strength and faith in the transformational love of Christ.

Highlights from this quarter included Global Handwashing Day and World Food Day celebrations, which reinforced the importance of hygiene, proper nutrition, and community well-being. During these events, students learned about healthy habits through interactive presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and group activities.

Our reading emphasis programs continued to be a core focus, particularly for younger students struggling with literacy. Teachers at several centers provided one-on-one reading support and introduced new books to inspire engagement. In addition, several adolescent students were given opportunities to explore vocational skills, including pastry making, beauty salon training, and computer classes.

December was a time of great joy as our centers hosted Christmas celebrations, carol singing, and special holiday meals. One of our largest events welcomed over 300 children and their families, providing a warm meal, gifts, and a powerful message of Christ's love. Students also performed a Christmas cantata, sharing the story of Jesus through song and drama. This event was a moving reminder of the spiritual foundation that unites our VisionTrust family. In addition to these celebrations, our staff also gathered for an end-of-year reflection and appreciation event, recognizing the dedication and perseverance of our teachers, volunteers, and administrators.

Extra support was given this quarter to combat outbreaks of chicken pox and seasonal flu. Beyond health concerns, the rising cost of living in the Dominican Republic has placed an increasing burden on many of the families we serve. As government social programs struggle to meet demands, we remain committed to finding new ways to support our students and their communities.

Despite these challenges, we step into the new year with hope and determination. Our goals for 2025 include expanding vocational training programs to equip students with real-world skills, strengthening discipleship efforts to deepen spiritual growth among children and families, and addressing facility needs, particularly regarding water access and classroom space.

We are profoundly grateful for our donors, staff, and partners who make this work possible. With God's provision and your support, we will continue empowering children across the Dominican Republic to thrive in education, faith, and life.



### **GUATEMALA**

Guatemala experienced a season of reflection, celebration, and perseverance. While natural disasters and one of the country's worst dengue fever outbreaks in history presented challenges, the end of the school year and the Christmas season brought a renewed sense of hope and gratitude.

The end of 2024 brought significant struggles for our Los Verdes program. Staff members faced serious health challenges that prevented their involvement in the ministry, and with the program short-staffed, the Los Verdes community became a central point in the national dengue outbreak. Nearly every family in the community was affected, and the exhaustion from combating this health crisis made for a challenging end to the school year.

Despite these hardships, the Christmas season brought a sense of joy and fresh energy to the communities we serve. Students passing their exams and moving on to the next grade level were a source of celebration and pride for the community. Additionally, the year-end celebrations reminded us of the power of hope and the importance of coming together in Christ Jesus.

One of the most rewarding moments of the quarter was the celebration of our older students as they graduated and took the next steps in their life journeys. Some graduating students moved into the Higher Education program, with others pursuing vocational training and entering the workforce. **Witnessing students in their graduation gowns, ready to embark on a future filled with opportunity, reaffirmed the impact of our programs and the faithfulness of God in their lives.** 

Victor Guerra Avila is one of this year's graduating seniors. He first joined our program in Cruz Blanca at just two years old. This quarter, we celebrated his graduation; a moment that filled our hearts with gratitude. His journey has been a testament to both perseverance and faith. Victor's older brother, Rosalío, had to leave school early to help provide for the family, but he takes great pride in seeing Victor reach this milestone. Their story is a beautiful example of how education and faith can transform lives, not just for individuals but for entire families.

Other highlights from the quarter included the annual year end youth conference that over 30 children attended. Participants who attended this overnight conference were able to deepen their faith and build relationships with peers who share their commitment to Christ. Earlier in the quarter, both programs held thanksgiving celebrations to help children remember and learn the importance and gratitude and thanksgiving.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to providing education, health support, and spiritual guidance to our students and their families. The resilience of our communities continues to inspire us, and we trust that God's hand will guide us through whatever comes next.





#### PERU

As we ended the year, our programs in Peru continued to provide much-needed support to children and families facing economic hardship and instability. Inflation remained a challenge, with the rising cost of basic goods making daily life increasingly difficult for many of the families we serve. Despite these obstacles, our programs have remained a place of refuge, learning, and hope for children across the region. This quarter was filled with meaningful activities and celebrations that reinforced our commitment to holistic child development.

Reading comprehension was a major focus this quarter. We worked on improving reading posture, fluency, and expression while encouraging children to engage with books. One of the most exciting reading exercises was the exploration of Dangerous Animals, which led to a lively discussion where children shared their knowledge and curiosity about wildlife. We also incorporated creative learning approaches, such as group reading, storytelling, and theatrical presentations based on biblical parables. These activities not only improved literacy but also encouraged teamwork and critical thinking.

Spiritual development continued to be a core part of our programs. Each week, children learned about a new parable from Jesus, culminating in a church presentation where they performed one of the parables. This hands-on experience helped reinforce the lessons in a meaningful way. **Two children**, **Angel and Aysel, made a first-time commitment to Christ this quarter. Their journey of faith is a testament to the impact of our discipleship programs.** 

One of the highlights of the quarter was our Christmas Celebration on December 21st, where children from all our programs came together for the first time in a unified event. More than 350 children participated in a day filled with joy, gifts, and the message of Christ's love. This event was made possible through the generosity of sponsors and local partners.

Despite economic hardships, we remained committed to providing children with the education, spiritual guidance, and nourishment they need. As we step into 2025, we look forward to and pray for the Lord's blessing on our ministry as we seek to serve even more children in the name of Jesus.





# **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Civil war and political instability remain ever present realities in Southeast Asia as we minister to children in need. As conflict continues to escalate, many families in the communities we serve have been forced to relocate, and food and fuel shortages remain a pressing issue. Despite these difficulties, our programs continue to provide children with education, health support, and spiritual development, offering a sense of stability in an uncertain time.

This quarter, we introduced new reading materials that promoted character development and social awareness. *If You Want to Be Humanity* taught kindness and responsibility, while *Rights and Responsibilities for Youth* encouraged goal-setting and growth. *The Holy One's Book* provided an accessible account of Christ's birth, reinforced through drama performances. Even non-Christian students eagerly participated, reflecting a growing openness to the Gospel.

**Faith remains a cornerstone of our programs, offering strength and hope in a difficult season. This quarter, two students made a commitment to follow Jesus.** One of these students comes from a non-Christian family and initially struggled in school due to a lack of parental support. However, after joining the learning center, he became more engaged with his studies and began reading the Bible and singing worship songs with his friends. His transformation was especially evident during the Christmas play, where he participated enthusiastically. His parents, though not Christian, were touched by his positive changes and have not opposed his newfound faith.

Students participated in Sunday School, Bible study, and prayer gatherings. One of the most impactful lessons focused on sharing the Gospel with others. As Christmas approached, children were encouraged to tell their friends about Jesus, and many took this challenge seriously. Christmas celebration was a highlight of the quarter – with children participating in Christmas worship services, dramas and gift-giving events.

As Southeast Asia continues to navigate political and economic uncertainty, our programs remain a beacon of hope for children and families. We are grateful for the dedication of our teachers and the resilience of our students. As we step into the new year, we pray for peace, stability, and continued opportunities to transform lives through education, discipleship, and community care.





# **SOUTH ASIA**

As the year came to a close, South Asia experienced significant economic and environmental challenges. Rising inflation and the increasing cost of essential goods continued to impact families, making it harder for many to meet their daily needs. Additionally, unpredictable weather patterns, including prolonged heat waves in some regions, led to water shortages that affected both the community and the children attending our programs.

However, amid these challenges, we found reasons to celebrate. Our Christmas outreach events were a highlight, bringing joy and a message of hope to children across multiple learning centers. Each event included engaging activities, scripture readings, and performances by the children. **One of the standout moments was when more than 20 children enthusiastically memorized and recited Bible verses to their families.** 

Academic success was another reason for celebration this quarter. Students in several of our learning centers excelled in their curriculum exams, earning cash prizes for their outstanding performance. These achievements serve as a reminder of the dedication of both students and staff, who work tirelessly to ensure children have access to quality education despite external hardships.

Another key success this quarter was the distribution of winter clothing to each child. This gesture not only provided warmth during the colder months, but also reassured the children that they are valued and cared for.

Our focus remains high-quality education and discipleship opportunities for every child in our care. With the support of our donors and partners, we believe we can make an even greater impact in the year ahead.



#### **LIBERIA**

As we reflect on this quarter, we remain grateful for God's guidance through the end of the calendar year. Liberia's political climate has been marked by uncertainty due to a lingering impasse in the House of Representatives, which has slowed the passage of critical policies. While this has not directly impacted our programs, it does create an unpredictable environment for the country's overall stability.

On a positive note, Liberia's economy has shown signs of stabilization, with inflation remaining in check and a slight reduction in fuel prices. However, the cost of staple foods, especially rice, remains high, which has placed additional strain on families. Despite these challenges, our programs have continued to provide essential support to the children in our care, ensuring they receive education, nutrition, and spiritual development.

One of the most encouraging aspects of this quarter has been the continued success of our feeding program. Liberia is often described as a "one-meal-a-day country," making our food distribution efforts vital for many of the children we serve. **Thanks to our partners and supporters, we've been able to provide consistent meals, helping improve the health and focus of our students.** 

In education, our schools have made great strides, especially in strengthening literacy skills. We have found that peer-supported reading initiatives are effective, as stronger readers assist their peers in developing their fluency and comprehension. Additionally, improvements in school infrastructure—including better sanitation facilities and clean water through Sawyer filters—have contributed to a healthier learning environment.

The highlight of this quarter was the year end Christmas celebrations. Our programs held festive Christmas parties, bringing joy to hundreds of children and their families. The events featured music, drama, scripture readings, and a special meal. Many children heard the Gospel in a meaningful way, and we are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Christ's birth together.

As we enter 2025, our focus remains on strengthening education, ensuring access to nutritious meals, and deepening spiritual discipleship among students. We are also praying for continued financial stability and for our programs to be a beacon of hope for families navigating economic hardships. We trust in God's provision and remain steadfast in our mission to empower Liberia's children for a brighter future.





# MALAWI

Malawi continues to face significant economic challenges, with rising costs of basic goods, particularly food and fuel. The persistent fuel shortages, which have lasted since mid-2023, have had a ripple effect on transportation and inflation. Some areas have gone without fuel for days at a time, causing disruptions in daily life. Despite these economic difficulties, the programs have remained a source of hope and stability for children and their families.

#### One of the most promising developments this quarter has been the success of our maize fields, which are showing strong potential for a good harvest, and could provide much-needed relief in the coming months.

Spiritual growth remains a central focus, and our team has continued weekly Bible studies with children at the learning center. Intentional Bible studies every Thursday have been instrumental in helping children reflect on scripture and grow in their faith. Our adolescent mentorship program has also been encouraging, equipping young people with life skills and reinforcing good behavior.

This quarter, students showed dedication to their learning, with reading and tutoring as key priorities. Many excelled in exams, demonstrating remarkable perseverance despite the country's economic challenges. In December, a parent meeting reinforced support for the program, with families expressing gratitude for its impact on their children's futures.

Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to host a joyous Christmas party for the children. This year's celebration provided food, gifts and a time of song and celebration. The event was a bright moment of hope and happiness for all who attended.

As we step into 2025, we remain hopeful for positive change. We are praying for a strong maize harvest, which could ease food shortages, and for financial stability to sustain our programs. Our commitment to providing quality education, spiritual mentorship, and health support remains unwavering. With continued faith and support, we trust that brighter days are ahead for Malawi's children and families.





# TANZANIA

As we bid farewell to 2024 and step into 2025, we reflect with gratitude. The holiday season brought moments of joy and celebration, and we are thankful for the progress made in our programs despite ongoing challenges.

One of the major successes this quarter was the continued improvement of our school infrastructure. At one of our schools, a significant portion of the building underwent renovations, including new roofing, which has greatly enhanced the learning environment for students. We are praying and trusting God to help us complete the remaining nursery block renovations in the coming months.

Additionally, we were blessed to welcome visitors from the United States who partnered with us in various ways. Their visit brought encouragement to students and staff, and they generously provided gifts, which were received with great joy. **These partnerships continue to remind us of the impact we can have when we work together.** 

Our students continued to show resilience and dedication in their academics. A key highlight was the Grade IV National Assessment conducted in November. Ninety-seven students sat for their exams, and we are pleased to report all of them successfully passed and were promoted to Grade V. Their achievement is a testament to the hard work of our teachers and the commitment of the students themselves.

Another highlight was our General Parents' Assembly held in December. The meeting provided an opportunity for parents and teachers to reflect on the year's progress and discuss plans for the upcoming academic year. Parents were able to receive their children's academic reports and engage in discussions on how best to support their education moving forward.

We remain hopeful God will provide all we need for the year ahead. We trust that our ongoing partnerships and the dedication of our staff will help us continue improving our programs and supporting our students. We are committed to creating a nurturing learning environment and ensuring that every child in our care receives the education and spiritual guidance they need to thrive.





# **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

As we closed out the year 2024, the dry season reminded us that in every season God is faithful. With little rain this quarter, road conditions deteriorated, becoming very dusty to drive on. This pervasive dust made travel difficult for our staff as they moved between our nine orphan groups. Despite this difficulty, we are grateful that our programs continued uninterrupted, allowing us to serve the children and provide essential support.

The Christmas celebration was a highlight for our children. It was a time of joy and fellowship, where orphans participated in skits, games, and group dances, received Christmas gifts, and enjoyed a special meal. The event, attended by caregivers and local church leaders, reinforced our commitment to providing not just material support but also moments of shared happiness and spiritual encouragement.

Throughout the quarter, we continued our educational efforts by classifying all orphans according to their academic levels and ensuring they have access to proper schooling for the 2024-2025 year. **Bible lessons focused on "The Birth of Jesus," guiding the children through the meaning of Christ's arrival on earth and reinforcing their spiritual foundations.** Monthly meetings with staff and teachers also served as a time for prayer, encouragement, and discussing ways to improve our outreach.

An ongoing highlight of our work in the C.A.R. is the supplemental nutrition program for immunocompromised orphans. An encouraging step forward is that three of the six children receiving support moved from severe to moderate malnutrition. The children shared their gratitude, noting how access to proper nutrition has improved their ability to take their medications consistently and maintain better overall health.

With 2024 now complete, we look forward to the new year with hope. We hope to equip our orphan groups with handwashing kits and increasing education on disease prevention as we expand our hygiene initiatives. As we continue providing education, spiritual guidance, and health support, we are reminded that our mission is making a lasting difference in the lives of these children.





### ZIMBABWE

We reflect on the resilience and faith that carried us through 2024. The arrival of the rainy season has brought cautious optimism to the communities we serve. Although rainfall has been inconsistent, many farmers have begun planting their fields in the hope of a better harvest in 2025.

This quarter, our learning centers and feeding programs continued to provide essential support. Our feeding program, which currently serves 2,694 children in eight schools, remains one of our most critical initiatives. Given ongoing food shortages, this program has helped ensure that children receive at least one nutritious meal per day, improving school attendance and overall well-being.

Another highlight this quarter was the successful execution of our annual Discipleship Camp. More than 150 children and youth attended, engaging in Bible lessons, worship, and small group discussions. **The camp not only strengthened their spiritual growth but also created a space for them to share personal struggles and receive guidance from mentors and peers.** 

The reading and mentorship programs continue to thrive, fostering significant educational growth among students. Children have been actively engaged in reading challenges with many showing significant improvement. Teachers and volunteers continue to work closely with students, ensuring they receive the academic support they need to excel.

Zimbabwe's economic crisis remains a significant hurdle. Inflation has led to a sharp rise in the cost of essential goods, making it difficult for families to afford food, school supplies, and healthcare. Additionally, the El Niño-induced drought has worsened food insecurity, with many communities relying on relief efforts to meet their daily needs.

Despite these difficulties, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve children and families with compassion and faith. In 2025, we aim to continue our feeding programs, strengthen discipleship efforts, and continue providing quality education and mentorship. With the support of our partners and God's grace, we are confident that we can overcome obstacles and bring lasting change to the communities we serve.





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