

Lyra NEWSLETTER



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Lyra NEWS FROM LYRA

In 2022-2023 we funded 10 core projects in our priority areas of girls' education, digital learning, youth entrepreneurship and savings and loans schemes. We are truly grateful to all who have supported us in making these programmes successful and impactful. In the following pages we will share with you the highlights of these programmes and the key successes.

Project implementation has continued at a pace with all our programmes in rural communities in Tanzania.

OUR PROGRAMMES



1195 girls staying in hostels



1050 members of VSLA



6,273 beneficiaries of DL



418 IK participants

Introducing our new Lyra Tanzania CEO - Cikay Richards

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Cikay Richards as the new CEO of Lyra in Africa Tanzania from 1st October 2023.

Cikay is one of the rising stars of Africa and Europe's Business community and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role. Previous to this role, Cikay worked with one of leading big four professional service networks in Switzerland, and prior to that she was the Executive Director of the European Business Group in Tanzania. Cikay is an accomplished professional with a diverse background and a strong track record of success in both the public and private sectors. A proud African-Irish woman and a dynamic and accomplished professional with a strong commitment to both her career and public service, making a significant impact in various sectors and regions.



Cikay is a great leader who shares our vision and passion for economically sustainable and vibrant communities in rural Tanzania. She has a deep understanding of the challenges facing rural Tanzanians and will be focused on developing and driving Lyra in Africa's programmes as we begin our next chapter.

A huge welcome to you Cikay.

I'm excited to be joining this dynamic and enthusiastic team as we work to advance equitable access to Education in Tanzania. Indeed, "Nothing we ever imagined is beyond our powers, only beyond our present self-knowledge."

Theodore Roszak

Cikay Richards - CEO Lyra Tanzania

TECHCONNECTS

We are delighted to announce that having teamed up with our global IT partners, Softcat and Greensafe we are transporting a container full of repurposed tech and equipment to Iringa. This tech will be donated to the Tanzanian Government and placed in ward government school computer labs, Teacher Training Colleges and newly established Lyra Centres of Excellence. Aligning with the Tanzanian Government's Education priorities, this project also meets all of Lyra's key goals: environmental sustainability, Digital Learning, Gender Equality and Quality Education. The computers will be installed with off-line learning resources to enable students and teachers alike to access high quality educational materials, aligned with the school curriculum to transform their learning experience and opportunities. We will keep you updated on the progress of this container and all the opportunities it is bringing.



THE CONTAINER OF TECH LEAVING THE GREENSAFE WAREHOUSE IN AUGUST AND BEGINNING ITS LONG JOURNEY TO IRINGA.



Help us hugely advance the educational opportunities of students by donating here.

DONATE

Your donation will enable us to secure more computers for students in rural Tanzania

This blue container holds something invaluable - optimism, knowledge, equality, and empowerment - the very essence of our cause. These elements serve as the keys to unlocking the true potential of Tanzania's youth, driving positive change through quality education. Our passion for this project knows no bounds, and we firmly believe that quality education and tech empowerment lead to sustainable progress and transformative opportunities.

Rebecca Hadley, Head of Marketing at GreensafeIT

TRANSFORMING FUTURES THROUGH THE LYRA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM: EXAMINATION CELEBRATIONS

We are delighted to announce that 28 (out of 33) sponsored girls in Form 4 did exceptionally well in their exams and have qualified to go on to Advanced Level Education. At Mazombe school all 11 sponsored girls will graduate with flying colours! For three of these girls their dream of continuing their education could only be met with extra financial support and so Lyra has sponsored them to enable them to continue their educational journey. These great results really highlight the impact that having a safe place to stay and study can have on a girl's education. Congratulations to them all.

ANITHA MWENZENGULE



[Click and listen to Anitha](#)

Anitha Mwenzengule, is a resilient 19 year-old from Kimara village located in Idete ward in Iringa region. Since the age of one she was raised by her 69 year old grandmother who is a subsistence farmer after her mother passed away. She never knew her father as he passed away too when she was still young. Her grandmother has always tried her best to ensure Anitha went to school despite her very low income. It was always a struggle to get the things she needed for school so Anitha had to work at weekends in order to earn money to buy them. Her grandmother is raising four children on her meagre income.

Anitha was sponsored by Lyra to enter a Lyra Hostel where she did exceptionally well in her O'Levels. Due to her economic situation at home, her grandmother asked her to go to work as a house girl in Singida region so as to support her in providing for the family back home as she is now old and cannot work as much to earn. Anitha dreamed of continuing her studies but her grandmother simply could not afford for her to go to college. With Lyra's continued sponsorship Anitha was able to enroll at nursing College this September.

IN ANITHA'S OWN WORDS

"I was so happy to get sponsorship to reside in a Lyra hostel in 2019 when I was in form one. Since joining the Lyra hostel, my study life underwent a tremendous transformation. I was filled with an indescribable happiness, as I got to spend most of my time in school, rather than toiling on the farm or working as a labourer at the weekends. Engaging in evening studies and vibrant discussions with my peers become a cherished part of my study routine. I utilized well the sponsorship I got from Lyra I and made sure I excelled in my studies. I am really thankful for the golden opportunity and the support which paved my way to pass science subjects and got selected to join both A level's and nursing college. I am really enthusiastic about my nursing course and delighted that Lyra will continue to sponsor me in the next phase of my education. The Lyra Sponsorship program did not only provide me with a safe haven at the hostel but also paved the way for academic success and personal growth. I have blossomed into a confident and ambitious young woman. My academic performance has soared, reflecting the immeasurable impact of Lyra support in education. It became a beacon of hope, which enabled me to break free from the vicious cycle of poverty and created boundless opportunities for a brighter future."

Anitha Mwenzengule
Sponsored Lyra Hostel Student

TECH FOR GOOD

Buy tech and support Lyra

Lyra In Africa is proud to announce our incredible partnership with TechForGoodUK

TechForGood is a membership based non-profit organisation that runs global Social Corporate Responsibility challenges aligned with the UN SDG's.

The concept is simple and effective: TechForGood sell Tech goods, and donate profits to social causes. This means that every time a customer buys from TechForGood, they are not only getting the best technology products but also contributing to social causes that have a positive impact on our world.

As a Technology Social Enterprise, they have taken a remarkable step towards making a difference and pledge to donate 50% of their profits to charities like Lyra that work towards the UNs 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Lyra has been handpicked as an impact partner for SDG4 - Quality Education.

We are looking forward to seeing this partnership grow with your help. So if you need a new laptop or other tech products, head over to the website and know that buying your goods there is contributing towards our programmes in rural Tanzania.

www.techforgooduk.org

Quality education #4

TECHFORGGOOD SUPPORTS: LYRA IN AFRICA

BY 2030
ENSURE THAT ALL GIRLS AND BOYS COMPLETE FREE, EQUITABLE AND QUALITY SECONDARY EDUCATION LEADING TO RELEVANT AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING OUTCOMES

INDICATOR
Build and upgrade EDUCATION FACILITIES
that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

REGION
AFRICA

Lyra
What are we helping with
EDUCATION
What is the need?
COMPUTER LAB
How much will it cost
£ 7500

Together we can help humans
<https://www.lyrainfrica.org/>

t

SDG4-SAY-YES-TO-EDUCATION

Visit TechforGood for all your tech needs www.techforgooduk.org

NEW HOSTEL AT MSEKE



Women from Sadani Village in Masaka Ward working to support the casting of the oversite concrete bed in the foundation stage of the Hostel

We are nearing the completion stages of our 14th Hostel

The next Lyra Hostel at Mseke is nearly finished.

Construction began in November 2022 and generously funded by Softcat and partners, this hostel has the capacity to house 104 girls. Like other Lyra Hostels this has been built in very close collaboration with the Iringa District Council, Masaka Community and the Mseke School Community. Softcat's donation funded 82% of the building costs with Masaka ward contributing 7% and Iringa District contributing 11% of the total construction costs. Thank you Softcat!

Continuing the Lyra ethos of building sustainable, low carbon design buildings, Mseke Hostel uses compressed and cured Interlocking Soil stabilised Bricks (ISSBs) instead of traditionally wood fired bricks.

Members of the local community volunteered their time and were trained in the production of ISSBs and assisted in making the bricks for the hostel.

The majority of the community volunteers were women who really understood and embraced how impactful the new hostel is to give the girls a safe space to complete their studies. By donating their time to aid in the building process, the local community not only ensure that costs are kept low, but also learn a skill that they can use. The local community also contributed with sand, stones and prompts/wooden poles. Community engagement is vital in ensuring that ownership and responsibility for the building and its continued operation can be successfully handed over to the community and local authorities. The hostel will be handed over in October, so keep an eye on the Lyra social media for the handover ceremony!



PERIOD POVERTY CAMPAIGN FOR HOSTEL GIRLS

Girls in rural Tanzania face a toxic trio of barriers around their menstruation: significant cultural taboos & stigma; insufficient relevant menstruation education and lack of access to safe & reusable sanitary pads. This results in girls turning to very unhygienic ways of managing their periods. We see that over 80% of rural girls experience period poverty, some missing approximately a week of school each month, significantly impacting their overall academic performance.

Can you help ensure rural girls in Tanzania don't miss out on their education by donating to our period poverty campaign?

Every donation goes to the most vulnerable girls we support in the Lyra hostels, giving them access to locally made, reusable sanitary pads so they can safely and hygienically manage their periods as well as receiving Menstrual Health Management awareness sessions.



To donate please click on the
donate box above

Imarika Kijana - Youth Entrepreneurship Program

We have built on the success of the Phase 1 IK program by introducing our Phase 2 Business Boost Program. This second phase provides further business skills to the most promising young entrepreneurs with the goal of creating sustainable and commercially viable enterprises to ensure employment in rural villages.

By providing Boost Business training to 401 youth and pairing each entrepreneur with a mentor, our aim is that their business skills & understanding of business management along with their income will increase.

During the specialised business boost training program, participants engaged in a series of workshops and activities aimed at enhancing their entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, including digital skills and creating business plans.

The training was tailored to meet the diverse needs of the youth, covering areas such as commercial agriculture, livestock management (including local poultry and piggery), as well as non-agricultural ventures like food kiosks and tailoring. Best practices for each type of enterprise were shared, providing participants with invaluable knowledge for their specific ventures.

A pivotal aspect of our Phase 2 program was the careful pairing of 9 mentors with 365 groups and individual participants, aligning them with their respective industries. This personalized approach ensures that mentees receive tailored guidance and advice, driving their business success.

In addition to the comprehensive training, participants had the opportunity to embark on exposure visits, providing firsthand insights into the operations of successful local entrepreneurs.

These visits covered key institutions including the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole), TEJO Company & Stanley Bee Farm, Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Kuku point at Kitwiru, and Kikombo Farm Plot in Mafinga.

In addition to the core activities of our Phase 2 Business Boost Program, we extended our support to 43 supervised Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) connecting them with industry partners specializing in beekeeping and agriculture.



Weavers from Mlowa village in Iringa learning about VSLA methodology for their businesses.

NANE NANE

Some of our extraordinary youth entrepreneurs from Lyra's Youth Entrepreneurship Programme - Imarika Kijana (IK), successfully participated in the Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition in Mbeya Tanzania, an annual event organized by the Tanzanian government to celebrate and showcase the significant contributions of farmers to the economy. Attended by thousands of visitors, including farmers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and the general public, the exhibition serves as a vital platform for presenting new agricultural technologies, solutions and produce. IK's participation allowed us to engage with this diverse audience, highlighting the achievements of our youth entrepreneurs and fostering valuable connections and partnerships within the agricultural sector.

The Lyra entrepreneurs had the opportunity to showcase the achievements and progress they have made through participating in our training programme. These four innovative businesses showcased their soil testing kits and bell pepper production and they sold all of their products of woven baskets, avocado tea powder and honey. This event facilitated valuable networking, creating market opportunities and partnerships for both entrepreneurs and Lyra within the agriculture sector. IK's presence garnered national visibility, promoting youth entrepreneurship for economic empowerment.



**Lyra
Entrepreneurs
proudly selling
their produce
at the Nane
Nane
Agricultural
Exhibition**

Lulanzi Secondary School New Solar Computer Lab

Harnessing the sun

New solar power was installed at Lulanzi secondary school by the Greenlink team. The solar system installed consists of 9 solar panels generating a total of 4,905 Kw of electricity. The installation will provide electricity to 8 classrooms, the Lyra computer lab and the teachers offices. By supplying clean energy to these facilities, the school can ensure uninterrupted power supply to transform the learning environment and foster tech skills through computer lab operations.



University of Helsinki Impact Study Report

We were very fortunate that Dr Rose Ingutia, a postdoctoral researcher and visiting scholar at The University of Helsinki, decided to undertake a research project into the Impact of the Lyra Program on Women, Girls and Youth in Tanzania. She spent time visiting the Lyra programs and talking to many beneficiaries of the programs, undertaking extensive research. Some key points from the study were:

"Hostel girls perform better in these subjects [maths and science] as compared to day-scholar girls. Hostel girls are most likely to pursue science careers at university level thereby closing gender gap in economic opportunities."

Lyra's DL program is highly relevant given it is novel in the rural communities; it is groundbreaking in introducing digital knowledge to the students.

Lyra's programs benefits extent beyond the beneficiaries to their communities, to Tanzania, to Africa, and globally for there is a common consensus of the critical role of education and gender equality in our global community as highlighted in the SDGs among others.

Her incredibly interesting and incisive report can be found here:

<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/publications/what-is-the-impact-of-the-lyra-program-on-women-girls-and-youth-i>

We want to thank Rose Ingutia and John Sumelius, co-author, for their time and incisive findings.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Back in the UK, we really enjoyed the opportunity to speak at St Mary the Boltons in London earlier in the year. The Community here is a great supporter of Lyra's work. If you would like the opportunity to learn more about Lyra's programmes come along to the Autumn Fair on Sat 23 Sept 12.00 - 4.00pm at St Mary The Boltons, SW10 9TB

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH A SMALL MONTHLY DONATION.

Lyra relies on donations from supporters. Having a regular income enables us to plan our long term projects, making them sustainable and more effective.

A £5 monthly donation to Lyra in Africa buys a girl a reusable sanitary pad for 18 months of use.



Sign up for a monthly donation by clicking the donate button



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