



World Scout Foundation
Fondation du Scoutisme Mondial

TICKET TO LIFE: SPREADING HOPE IN MALAWI



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

Ticket to Life – Opening a world of opportunity

As the sun slowly sinks over the horizon beyond the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi, young, eager students settle down behind a book to prepare for their lessons and exams. They have spent the day fetching water, taking care of siblings and working in the fields to ensure the livelihood of their families, leaving no time for learning.

Thanks to the local Scout Group, led by Edward Nyamwera, the school that lies in an area with no power grid now has a solar panel, shedding some light on the incoming darkness of a long day. Edward's Scout Group raised funds in their local community during a three-month campaign to purchase the solar panel, and then made the long journey to the remote primary school to install it in one of many efforts to bring some normalcy to the children in this expanding refugee camp.



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Over the years, Scouting in the Dzaleka camp has grown organically with limited resources, but has had a significant positive impact on the lives of young people. More recently, the Scout Association of Malawi has begun implementing Ticket to Life, which has already been successfully implemented in other countries like Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The goal: integrate children and youth facing particularly challenging circumstances into society through Scouting. Help them to develop self-worth, skills, values and the support they need, in a safe and nurturing environment, to develop into citizens who make a worthwhile contribution to society as part of the greater community, leading positive change.



Community service is nothing new for Edward Nyamwera, a young Scout leader and Rover President of the Scout Association of Malawi. Together with a small Scout team, he runs the **Ticket to Life** project for disadvantaged youth in the Dzaleka Refugee camp.

The camp lies about 40 km from the capital, Lilongwe, and was originally intended to shelter 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers that fled from conflict, persecution and disaster in neighbouring countries. Today over 50,000 people call the camp home, increasing the risks to its inhabitants, primarily women and children, of the spread of infectious diseases, protection-related issues and daily subsistence.

Among the daily challenges that come with living in an overcrowded refugee camp, **there is HOPE**. Hope that comes in the form of a local Scout programme called Ticket to Life, which Edward speaks of with great enthusiasm, empathising with young people who have been forced away from their homes.





Thanks to Edward's experience as a Scout and Ticket to Life leader, he has helped to introduce numerous additional initiatives with the local Scouts to tackle challenges and improve the lives of those in the camp. One key initiative addresses food insecurity due to overpopulation, destruction of crops and general scarcity of resources. Hunger in the camp has caused conflict and theft, at times exposing children to unnecessary violence. In response, Edward and his fellow Scouts have begun a Food for Life project, launching innovative gardening techniques to grow food for their own families as well as for income generation, creating an entrepreneurial spirit among participants.

Another cause that he is passionate about is encouraging young girls and women and those with disabilities to develop into Scout leaders, ensuring an inclusive environment for all. Through his parallel initiative "Empowering Women and Girls in Gender Diversity and Inclusion in Scouting", Edward wants to ensure that the opportunities through Scouting are available to everyone, allowing those that often miss out on a bright future the chance to grow and develop as active citizens.

"It is incredibly rewarding for me to see young girls and women playing a constructive role and participating in the development of their communities and taking part in leadership positions with our support."

Apart from the daily basic needs of those living in the camp, Edward also wants to ensure that Scouts and their communities are ready when disaster strikes, so the livelihoods of those living in the camp are not at risk. From cyclones to cholera outbreaks, droughts and floods, Edward saw first-hand in early 2023 how devastating mother nature can be. The southern part of Malawi was hit by cyclone Freddy, which led to the loss of 500 people and thousands of injuries.

Edward immediately stepped in, because if there is one thing Edward knows about Scouts, it's that they are prepared. He embarked on a new effort to equip existing and future Scout leaders with the knowledge and skills to be prepared when disaster strikes and take life-saving actions in times of natural and man-made disaster.

"I look forward to scaling up this project to all Scouts and leaders across the country, so that Scouts can be the first to take action in times of disasters."

Scouting has given Edward self-confidence, leadership skills, the spirit of volunteerism and the necessary skills to collaborate with people from all walks of life. It has shaped him into a responsible, active citizen. And now he is paying it forward.

"As a young leader, I am much convinced with the skills I have shared with my fellow young people, and that they have greatly impacted their lives and they have become responsible citizens too."

In the next 10 years, Edward wants to make sure all vulnerable children in the rural schools around the camp have the same opportunity for education that other children in Malawi do. He wants to expand the Ticket to Life activities in the camp and beyond to improve the livelihoods of young people and their families, while giving them a chance to create a better life. And thanks to the skills and values that young people are learning from him today, the new leaders of tomorrow are already following in his footsteps.

Together they will continue to drive positive change; to feed their own communities and beyond; to create new income-generating activities to sustain their livelihoods; to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever it is needed; and of course, they will always be prepared.



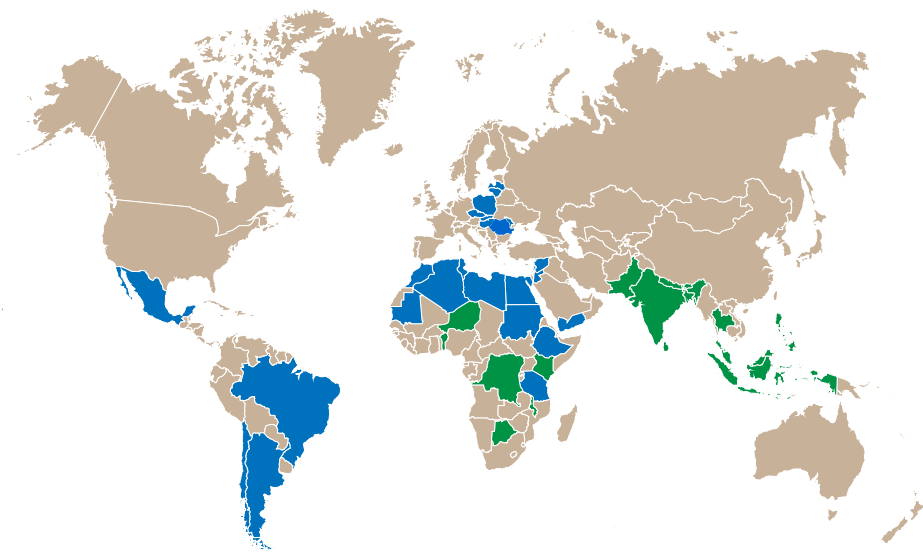
About Ticket to Life

Ticket to Life is a flagship World Scouting programme designed to empower vulnerable children and young people, including children on the streets, children with disabilities, refugees and children living in conflict zones. Over the past decade, World Scouting's Ticket to Life programme, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Imholz family via the World Scout Foundation, has successfully engaged more than 6,000 young people and has proven its effectiveness in various contexts.

Originally focused on children living on the streets, Ticket to Life has been expanded to target youth aged between 6 and 26 from additional vulnerable groups, giving them opportunities to play, socialise and develop key life-skills via a tailored educational programme of Scout activities. This is all done in a safe and nurturing environment, setting them on a path to a better life, so they can play a constructive role in society.

Scaling up our global impact

Through targeted interventions the Ticket to Life programme is scalable in the following regions:



Target groups vary by country and region, including refugees, street children, ethnic minorities, orphans and children with disabilities.

Africa

- Malawi, Kenya, DR Congo, Niger, Botswana, Benin, Comoros
- Ethiopia, Tanzania

Asia Pacific

- Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Europe

- Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Lithuania, Czechia, Latvia, and Slovakia.

Interamerica

- Brazil, Chile, México and Argentina.

Arab

- Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia.

CURRENT **PLANNED**

Our impact to date

Ticket to Life was first introduced in Nairobi, Kenya, then expanded to the Asia-Pacific Scout Region and most recently to additional countries in Africa, nurturing vulnerable children and youth and providing them with the chance to grow and develop in difficult life circumstances.

286 Leaders trained

Ticket To Life projects in 82 communities

Over 6,000 vulnerable children reached

REQUIRED PROJECT FUNDING: USD 1 MILLION PER YEAR

Detailed budget breakdown per region or country can be provided upon request.



**TIMEFRAME OF IMPLEMENTATION:
3-5 YEARS**



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