



Village Schools INTERNATIONAL

Sharing the Gospel in Africa through Education

Implications of Scaling Across Borders

For 15 years Village Schools has been known for (1) our unique model of building and operating schools (2) our unique model of sending missionaries and (3) our unique model of running an organization in America. The concept of “scaling across borders” involves transplanting the DNA of Village Schools Tanzania into neighboring countries. It is becoming increasingly clear that VSI will end up also being known for (4) our unique model of scaling across borders.

What exactly is our model for “scaling across borders”? We use our leadership college to prepare young people from villages with the practical skills and experience they would need so that if they sense a call from God to do so they are prepared to go to villages in other countries and to help leaders in those countries to build and run schools using the same model that worked in their own country.

How have we implemented that model? In 2015 we opened our leadership college. Our first graduates finished in 2019 and we organized an “international team” under Justin’s leadership and began sending these graduates on trips to the neighboring countries of Malawi, Zambia and Uganda to work with the leadership in these countries.

What have been the results? (1) We are expanding very rapidly into more and more villages. In Malawi we now have 6 schools up and running, another 4 under construction. In Zambia 12 schools are up and running and 8 more are under construction. In Uganda we have our first school up and running and in Kenya we are on the verge of beginning building our first. **(2) There are tangible metrics that show that we are succeeding in implanting our unique DNA into these neighboring countries.** In every country they are collecting sufficient school fees to pay our teachers on time. In each country there is clear evidence that they are “following the Luke 19:10 model of seeking out” students. We do not yet have any tangible evidence that anything special is happening academically in our schools but we have anecdotal evidence that is encouraging.

What does scaling across borders mean for VSI financially? We are currently projecting \$4.9 million in expenses in 2022 (nearly a 50% increase over last year) and a total of \$16.5 million in expenses over the next three years. Given what we have already raised, and the pattern of giving from our current donors, we expect to need to raise a total of \$2.6 million from new donors over the next 3 years. If we do so, we will make significant steps towards our goal of opening 60 additional new school before the end of the decade.