



Help Start  
Education  
Foundation

The Year of Miracles

# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

2025



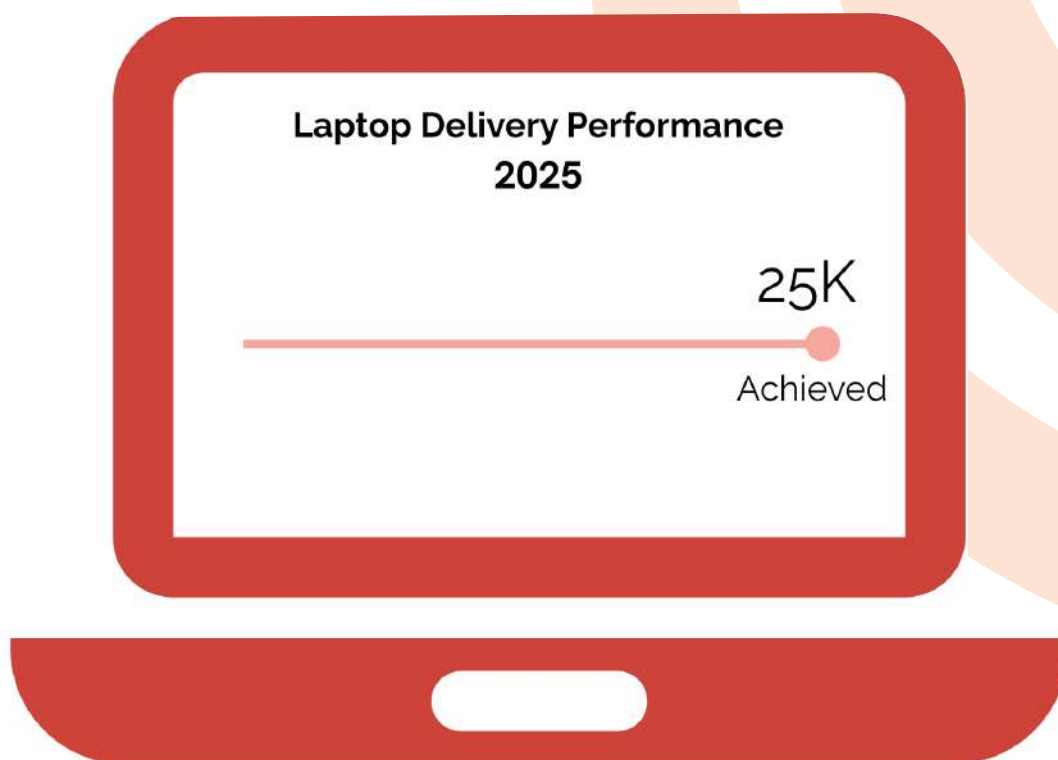
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# OVERVIEW: A MILESTONE YEAR FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

2025 has been a year of "miracles" for the Help Start Education Foundation (HSEF). We set an ambitious goal to distribute 25,000 laptops this year alone. With the support of our donors, we have met this target, bringing our cumulative global impact to over 38,000 laptops delivered. Our goal to bridge the digital divide has expanded into more than 30 countries, ensuring that every recipient is enrolled in an accredited program, either through BYU-Pathway or PEF-supported institutions, and is on a path to a recognized degree or certificate. The beneficiaries of this initiative are both members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and friends of the church. **Friends of the church who have benefited from the initiative account for 30% of the cumulative total.**

This report justifies our profound systemic impact across Africa and Asia. 2025 saw the expansion with offices in the SADEC region of Africa. We thank our donors for recasting these devices into campuses" and "offices" for students who previously attempted university-level coursework on antique semi-smart phones.





**30%**

**NON-LDS MEMBERS ARE  
BENEFICIARIES**



**“A YEAR  
OF  
MIRACLES  
”**

# A WORD FROM THE CO-FOUNDER AND CEO

To my dear Help Start Education Foundation family,

After such a miraculous year, I am reminded of American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson's words: "Treat a man as he is, and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he could be, and he will become what he should be."

At HSEF, we see students as who they can become. When we place a laptop in the hands of a student in Benin City, a mother in Cape Town, or a returned missionary in Harare, we cast a vote for their futures as lawyers, IT specialists, and church and community leaders.

2025 has been a year of "miracles" made possible by your belief in that potential. Because you chose to see what BYU-Pathway and PEF students could become, we reached our goal of blessing 25,000 students this year.

We didn't just grow in numbers; we grew in presence. New offices in South Africa and Zimbabwe created permanent hubs of hope that allow us to respond to local needs with greater speed and heart.

In Zimbabwe, we saw the immediate power of this expansion as we placed 1681 laptops into eager hands. South Africa also served neighboring Southern African countries, including Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho, eSwatini, Angola, and Madagascar.



Every device is a powerful bridge to opportunity, transforming obstacles into pathways to self-reliance. Whether it is helping a student like Siyanda in South Africa pursue the dream of becoming an IT specialist, equipping returning missionaries to return home with hope, or enabling online degree graduates to stand out in the modern workforce, your generosity is a transforming catalyst for these people.

As we enter 2026, let us continue to see every underserved student for who they can become. Thank you for your unwavering belief and support.

Wishing all of you a happy, healthy, and productive New Year.

With love and appreciation,

**Brent Evans**

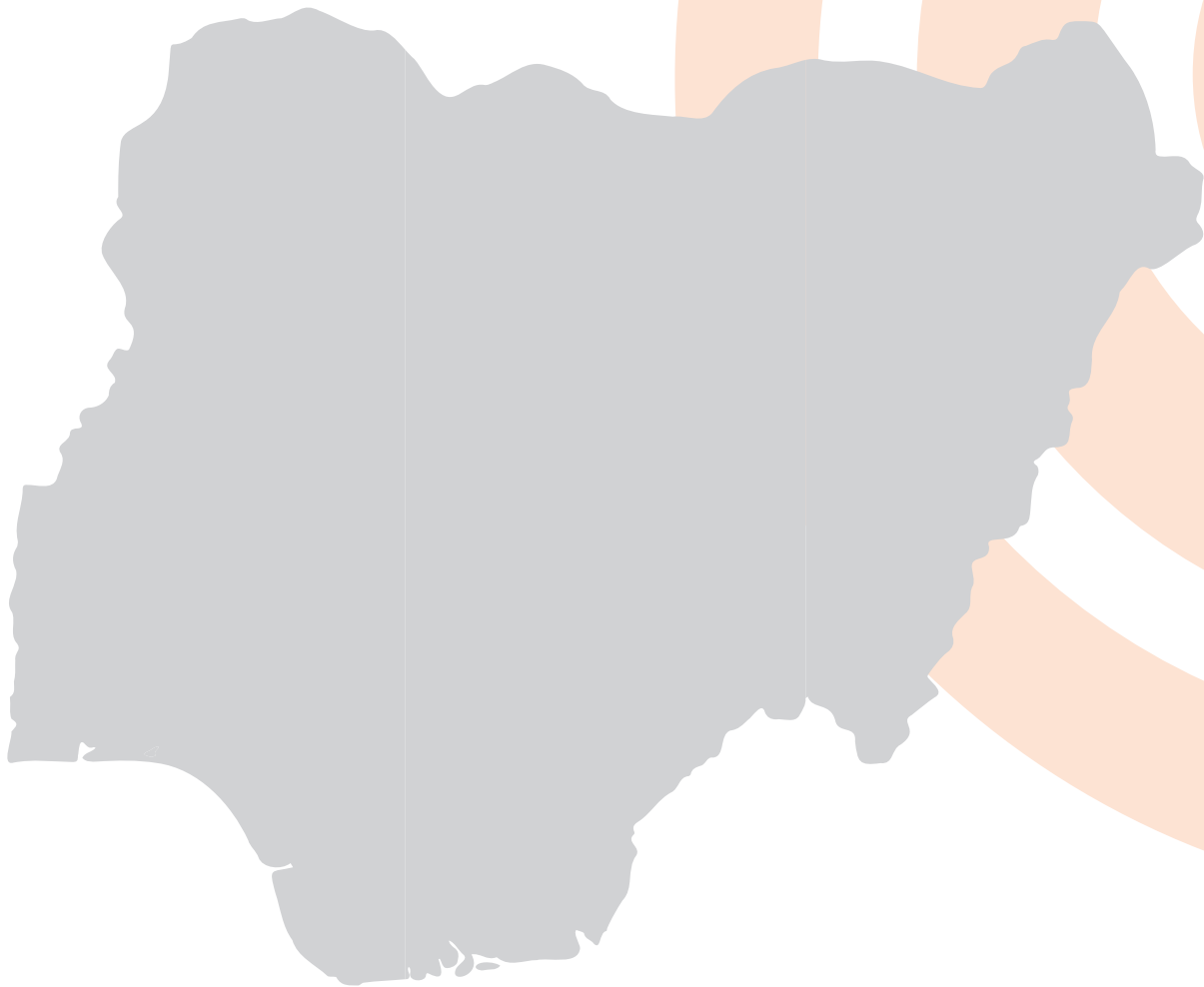
# REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# NIGERIA: OVERVIEW

Nigeria is home to Africa's largest gathering of Latter-day Saints—over 250,000 strong—making it a true cornerstone of our work in West Africa. But behind these numbers is a pressing need. With a young population and a poverty rate of 40%, many of Nigeria's youth face an uncertain future. By establishing three Help Start Education Foundation offices to cover the vast Nigerian geography, we are focusing our efforts where they matter most: equipping the next generation with the digital tools they need to find work and lift their communities.



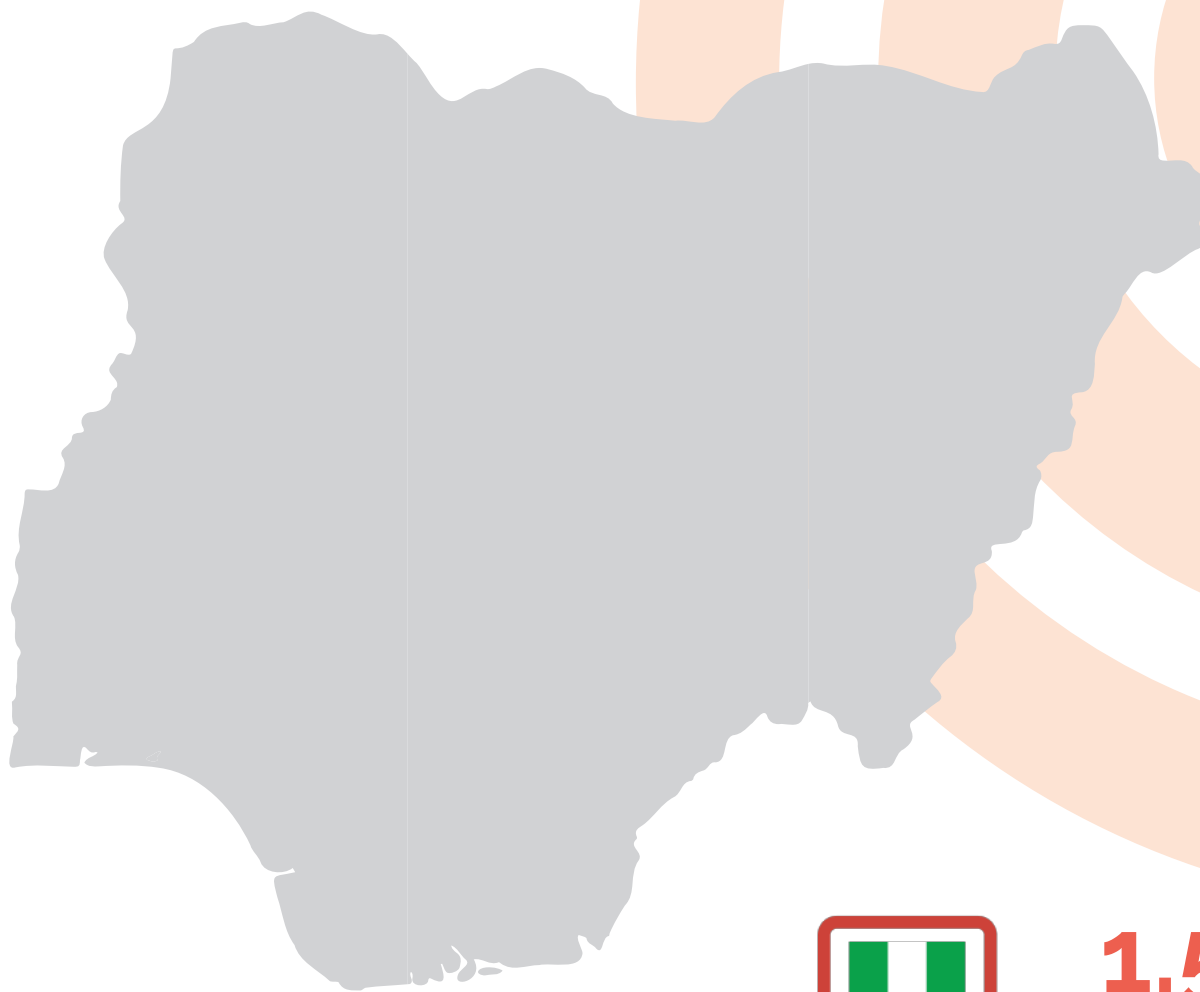
## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# NIGERIA: ASABA

In 2025, the Nigeria Asaba Zone successfully distributed 1,515 laptops to students. A significant success this year was the "Breakthrough in Benue and Plateau State," in which the team overcame significant security challenges to deliver devices to students in Makurdi, Gboko, Otukpo, and Jos.

We also prioritized institutional support, donating 23 laptops to the Gideon Paramallam and Stefanous Foundations under the "Succeed in School" project to assist BYU-Pathway students living in conflict-ravaged communities.

In October, the zone hosted a historic visit by BYU-Pathway leaders Troy Davis and Dr. Victor Ukorebi for a multi-stake devotional in Abuja, during which over 200 laptops were distributed. To support those completing their spiritual service, we provided more than 100 devices to returning missionaries across three Nigerian mission offices.



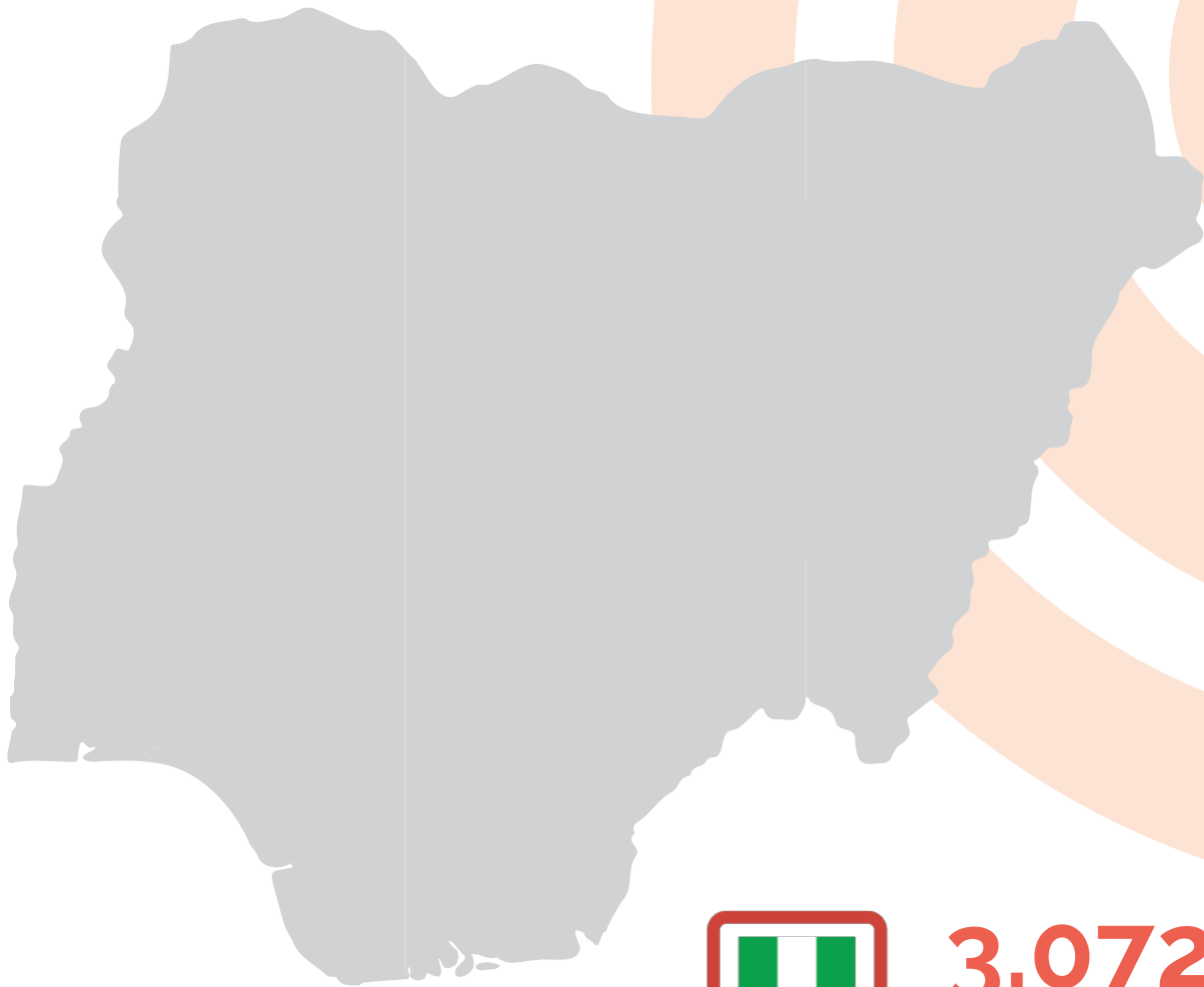
# 1,515

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# NIGERIA: LAGOS

The Lagos Zone distributed 3,072 laptops in 2025. Managed by a dedicated staff of five, the office effectively decreased its student backlog while maintaining strict quality protocols. A significant highlight of the year was an official outreach visit to Cotonou, Benin Republic, where the team distributed devices to approved applicants and strengthened ties with local priesthood leaders.



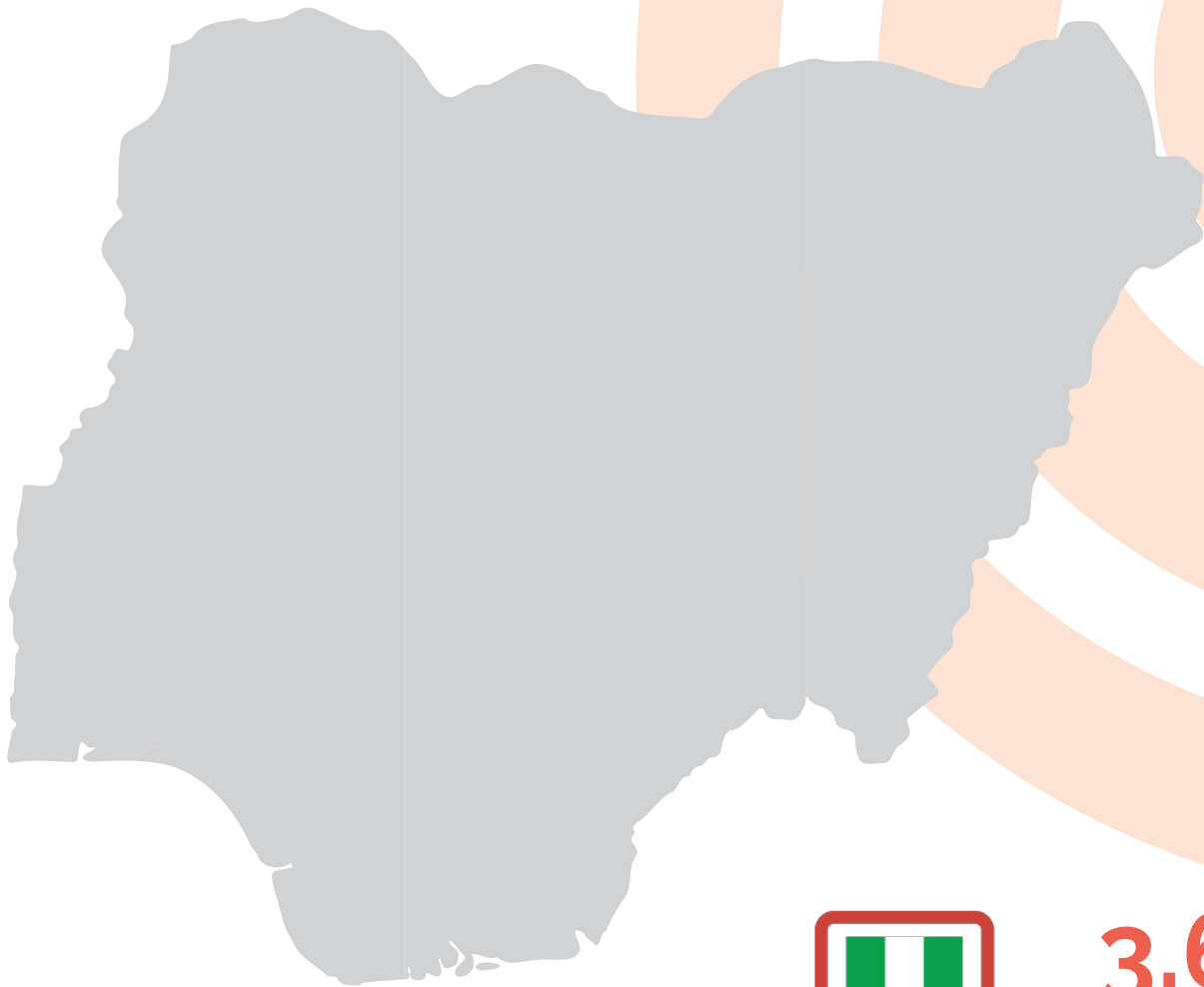
# 3,072

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# NIGERIA: CALABAR

The Nigeria-Calabar Zone successfully distributed 3,693 laptops in 2025. This outreach included the delivery of 262 devices to returning missionaries, enabling them to transition immediately into BYU-Pathway studies. Furthermore, our strong data-sharing partnership with The Lord's Hands Foundation improved accountability, preventing 93 cases of duplicate laptop collections.



# 3,693

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# GHANA:

### HEAD OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

Ghana serves as the strategic heart of the Foundation's global mission, acting as the **Head Office for International Operations**. The nation is home to the second-largest body of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Africa, with 113,470 members supported by six active missions. Despite its middle-income status, Ghana continues to face economic hurdles, with a national unemployment rate of 14.7% and more than 20% of the population living below the poverty line.

The Ghana program reached a cumulative total of **5,724** laptops donated since inception, with 1,188 devices distributed in 2025 alone. Beyond its national borders, the Ghana office serves as a vital supply hub, providing essential laptops to students in neighboring Togo, where, according to the World Bank, 43.8 percent of the population lived below the national poverty line as of 2021.

Local devotionals across the Tesano Stake, Ho District, and Cape Coast showcased the foundation's deep impact throughout 2025. We expanded our community footprint by donating 30 laptops to the 'Succeed in School' (SIS) program, providing vital resources to a local government school. These initiatives transformed lives, restoring the confidence of students like Paul Samuel Kwesi Assem through the gift of an accessible learning device. To crown the year's progress, the Stoker family contributed to our special devotional by generously donating 24 laptops in honor of their grandchildren.



# 1,188

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

# CONNECTING A GLOBAL FAMILY



## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# SOUTH AFRICA:

South Africa is one of the region's vital engines of progress. While internet penetration is growing, only about 27% of the population has access to personal computing technology. The nation is home to a solid community of 74,455 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, supported by four missions in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, and Pretoria. This spiritual strength stands in contrast to the economic reality, where 37.9% of the population lives below the national lower-bound poverty line.

To address these disparities, the South African Hub officially opened in January 2025. In its inaugural year, the hub distributed **1,303** devices, serving as a strategic logistics center for the wider SADEC region. The hub's reach reaches beyond borders to support underserved students in **eSwatini (2,348 members), Lesotho (1,890 members), Namibia, Angola (7,321 members), Mozambique (31,633 members), and Madagascar (17,331 members)**. Our Team worked very well with The Lord's Hands Foundation when it was under Bishop Damian, as we met regularly to verify applicants and work to avoid duplication.



# 1,303

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# SOUTH AFRICA:

An essential addition to our 2025 operations in this region was the Mission Pilot program, supporting the Pretoria and Johannesburg missions. We concluded the year with a landmark handover event at the BYU-Pathway Global Education Centre in Braamfontein. Zanele Duma Ngubane, BYU-Pathway Area Manager for Africa South, expressed her gratitude for the Foundation's work, particularly noting our "after-care service" and dedicated IT support as fundamental aspects that achieve an uninterrupted educational journey for every student.



# Building on the Mission

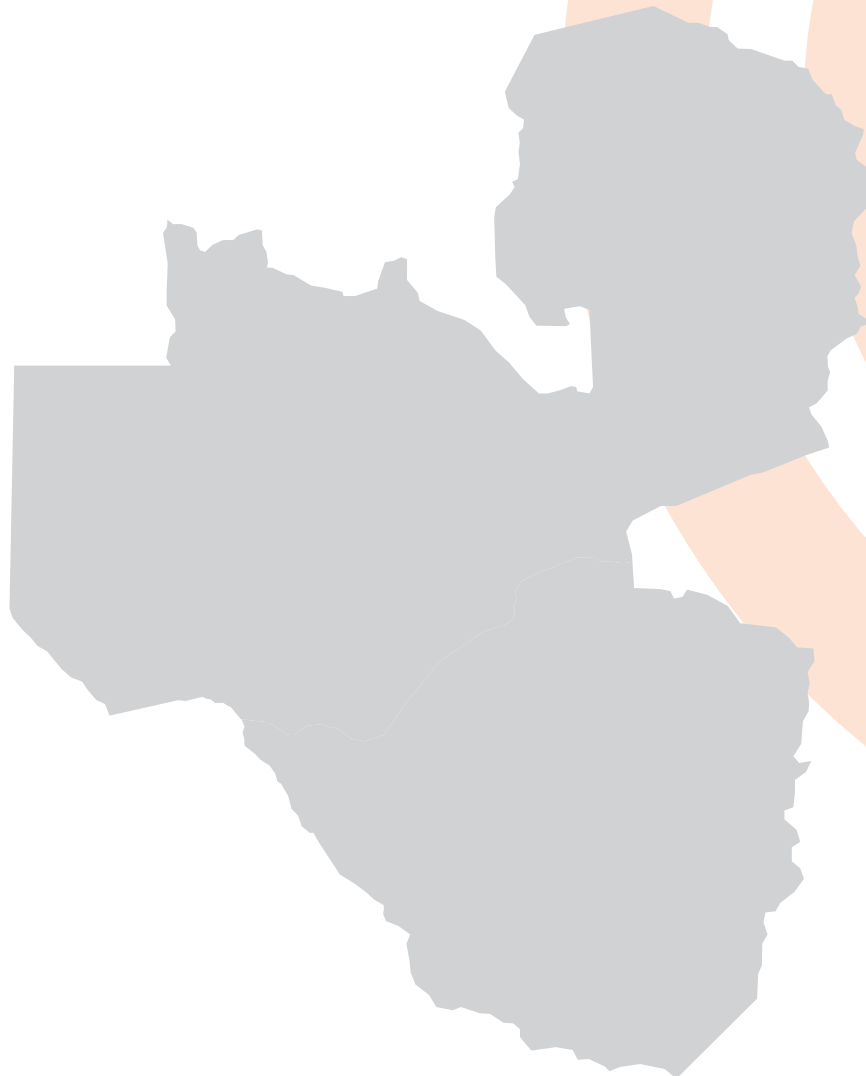


## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA:

The Zimbabwe office, officially established in Harare in January 2025, operates as a strategic office for both Zimbabwe and the neighboring Zambia region. Zimbabwe currently has 46,071 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and two active missions. The nation deals with significant economic challenges, with approximately 60% of the population living on less than \$3.65 a day. Zambia, also supported by this office, has 7,072 members and one mission, with a similarly estimated poverty rate of 60%.

In 2025, the office assisted **1,681** students across this region with the essential laptops needed to complete their studies online. A major highlight of the year was a visit from President Brian K. Ashton and the BYU-Pathway team in February for a devotional with local students. In November 2025, we launched the "**Succeed in School**" partnership in Zimbabwe, providing devices to Seminaries & Institute staff to train instructors on using technology for lesson delivery.



**1,681**

STUDENTS ASSISTED

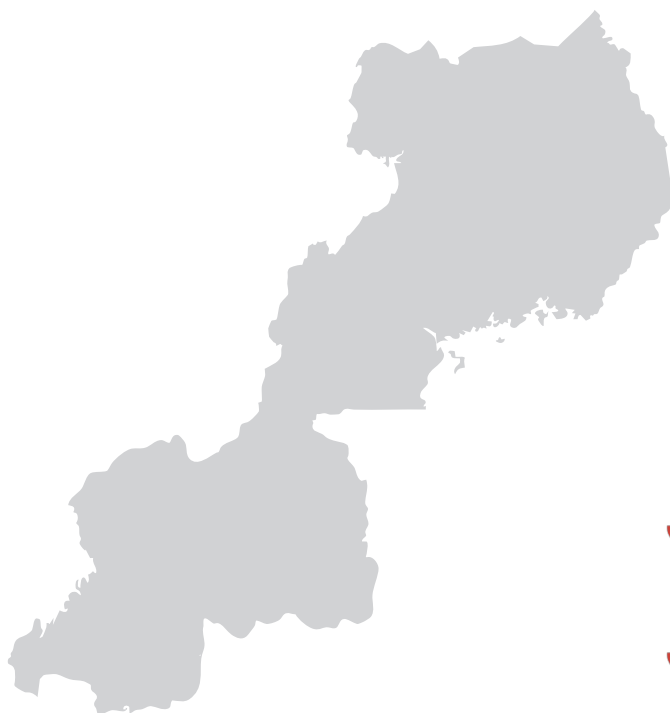


## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# UGANDA AND RWANDA:

The Uganda and Rwanda regions are experiencing significant spiritual and educational expansion. Uganda is home to 25,210 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and currently operates one mission in Kampala, with a second mission (Kampala East) scheduled to open in 2026. The nation faces a 16.1% absolute poverty rate. Rwanda, served by the Uganda office, has 2,489 members and one mission, with approximately 27.4% of its population living below the international poverty line.

In 2025, the Uganda office distributed **1,216** laptops in Uganda and **71 laptops** in Rwanda. A significant contribution was providing laptops to **St. Joseph Secondary School**, supporting ICT education for its 1,500 learners. These efforts were sustained despite distribution obstacles, including 9-hour drives to the Rwandan border for student handovers.



**1,216**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED



**71**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED



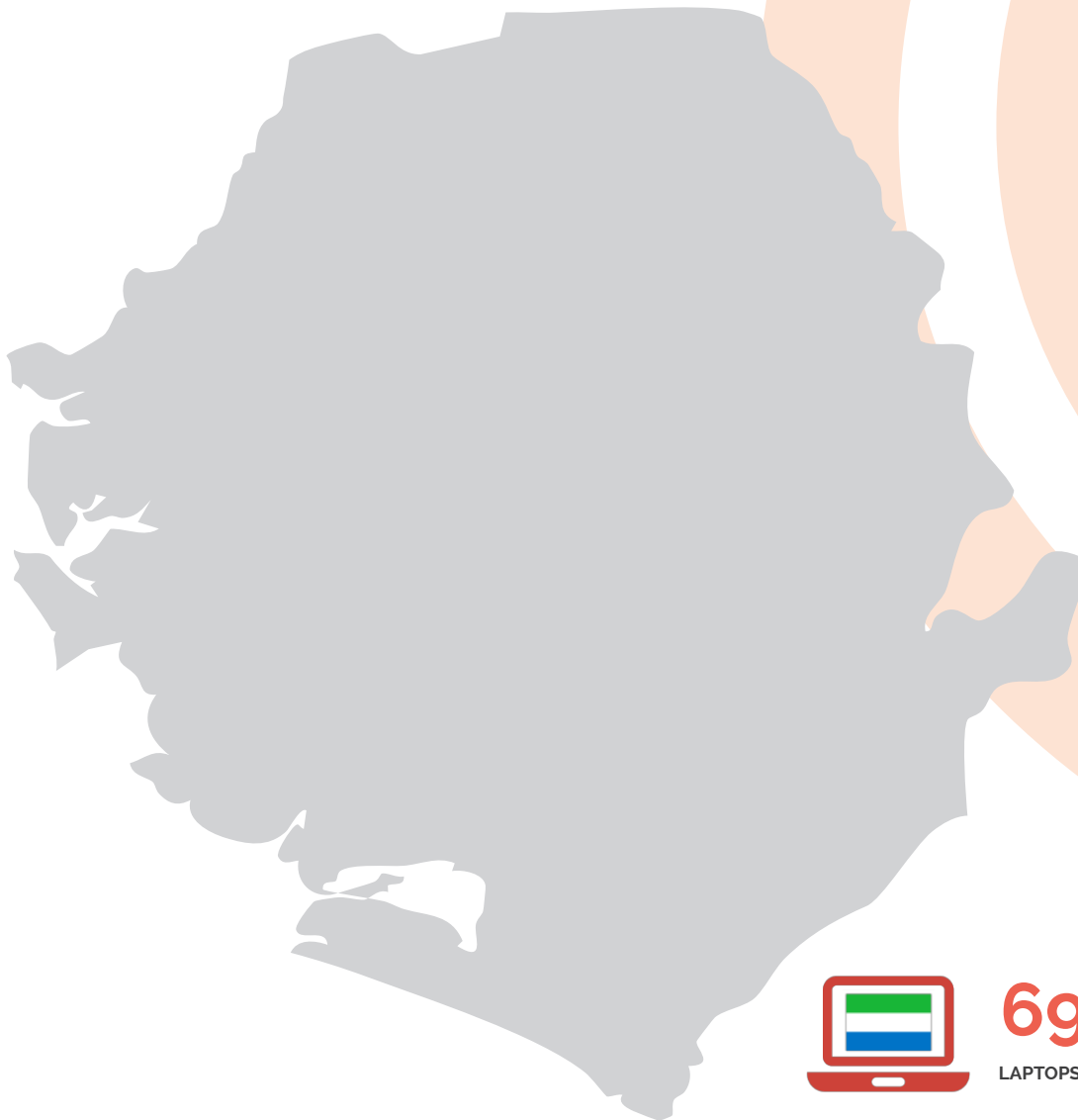
**Changing Lives  
One Laptop  
at a Time**

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# SIERRA LEONE:

Sierra Leone is a nation where educational grit meets profound economic adversity. Approximately 60% of the population lives below the national poverty line. Despite these difficulties, the country has a rapidly growing community of faith, with over 34,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and two active missions in Freetown and Bo.

In 2025, HSEF distributed **697 laptops** across Sierra Leone. Our operations focused on reaching students in the most deprived and hard-to-reach areas, such as Moriba town, Kailahun, and Kono, where the introduction of technology has dramatically improved the learning environment. For the first time, returning missionaries from the two local missions and those returning from other African countries now have immediate access to laptops upon completing their service.



**697**

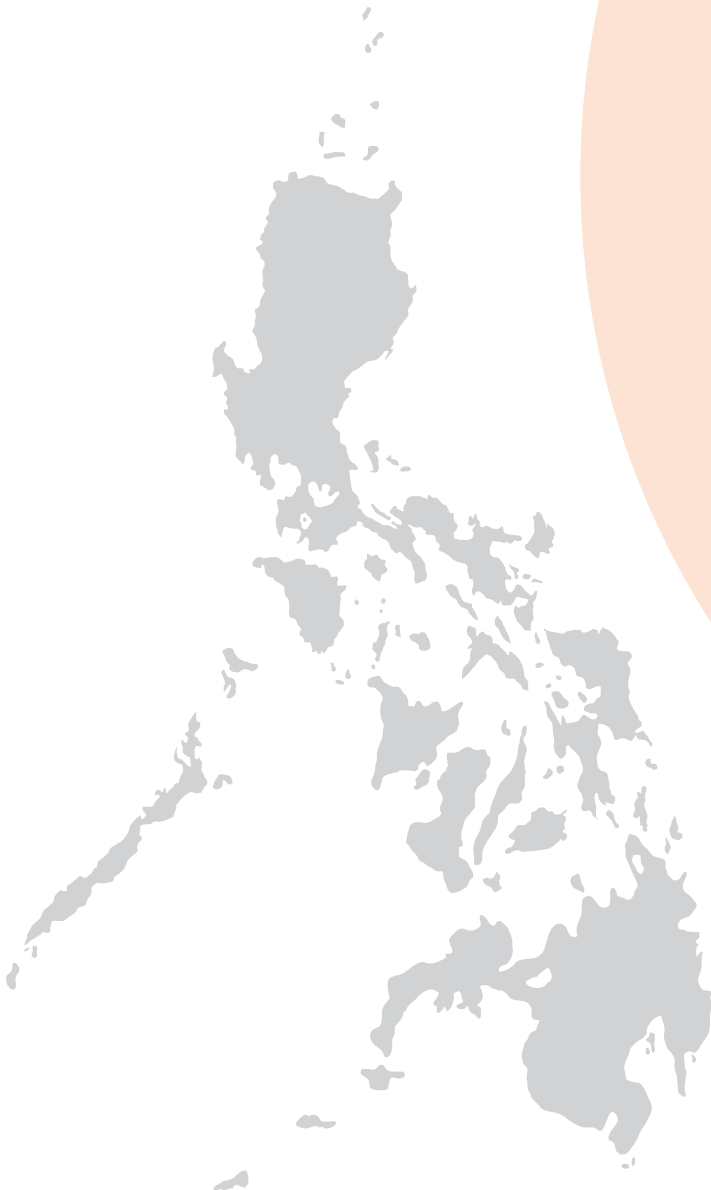
LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# PHILIPPINES:

The Philippines is an important area of growth for the Foundation, home to nearly 900,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—the most members per capita of any Asian nation. Currently, 26 missions operate across the islands to support this growing community.

In 2025, the Philippines office achieved a total distribution of **1,286 laptops**. To ensure students are aware of the support available, the office manages a dedicated call center that contacted 2,180 students this year alone. Our office participated in the successful documentary, "Pathway to Education" documentary, that highlighted the impact of the BYU-Pathway program. Our team distributes laptops to these students ensuring that they are able to enjoy remote high quality education.



**1,286**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

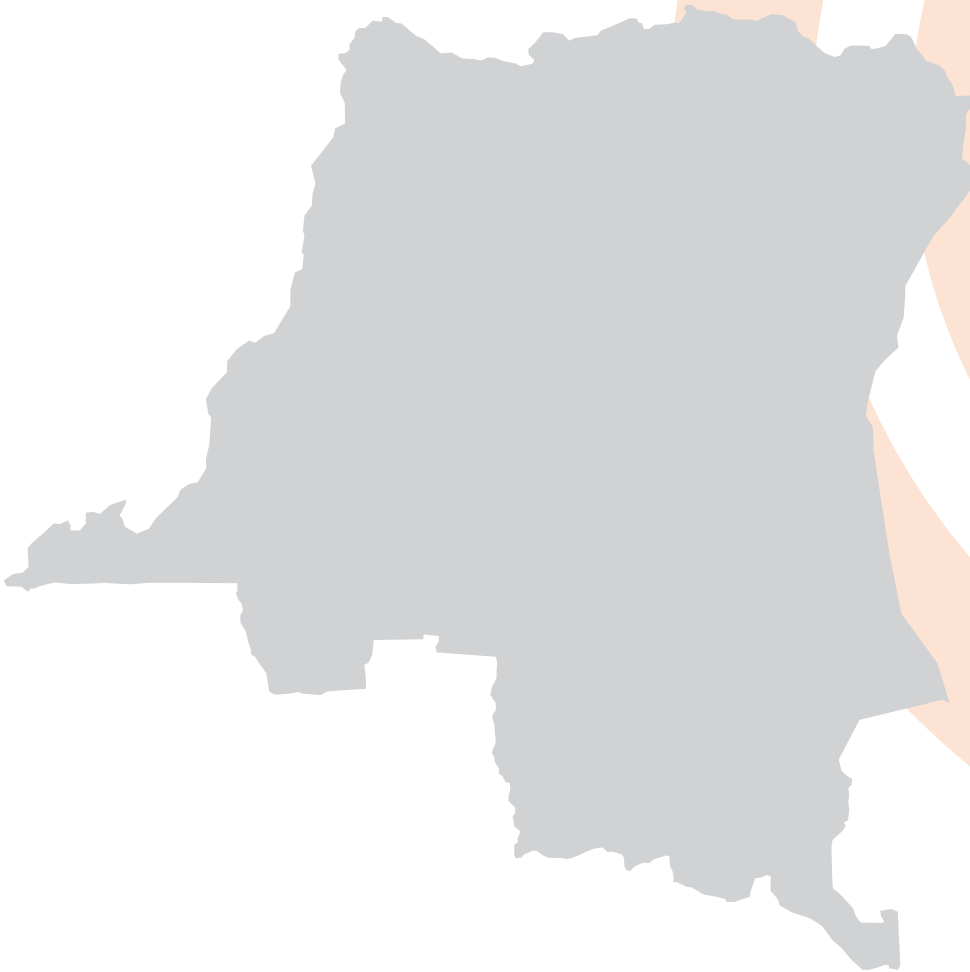
# Leading with Love



## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC):

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a massive nation of approximately 112.8 million people, ranking 15th most populous in the world. Despite its vast resource potential, the country faces significant economic hardship, with an estimated 73.5% of its citizens living on less than \$2.15 per day. This financial strain, coupled with high levels of underemployment, creates a "desperate situation" for students who lack the equipment needed for university-level studies. The DRC is home to a rapidly growing faith community of 134,067 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, supported by missions in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kananga, Mbuji-Mayi, and Kolwezi.



**2,475**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC):

In 2025, the DRC operations achieved a major milestone by distributing 2,475 laptops nationwide. This achievement was supported by the introduction of new monitoring software, which the team describes as a "game changer" for ensuring professional oversight. Working in close coordination in collaboration with local leaders and BYU-Pathway mentors, we have successfully supplied laptops to all missions in the DRC, including Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and Kananga, and even found ways to reach students in Kisangani despite regional instability.

As a French-speaking nation, the promise of a laptop has become a powerful incentive for students to complete the EnglishConnect program before transitioning to BYU-Pathway Worldwide. The year was marked by several inspiring devotionals, including a major event in Kinshasa that celebrated over 70 graduates.

We also prioritized returning missionaries by providing them with devices to ensure a seamless transition into higher education upon their return home.



# Anchoring Hope

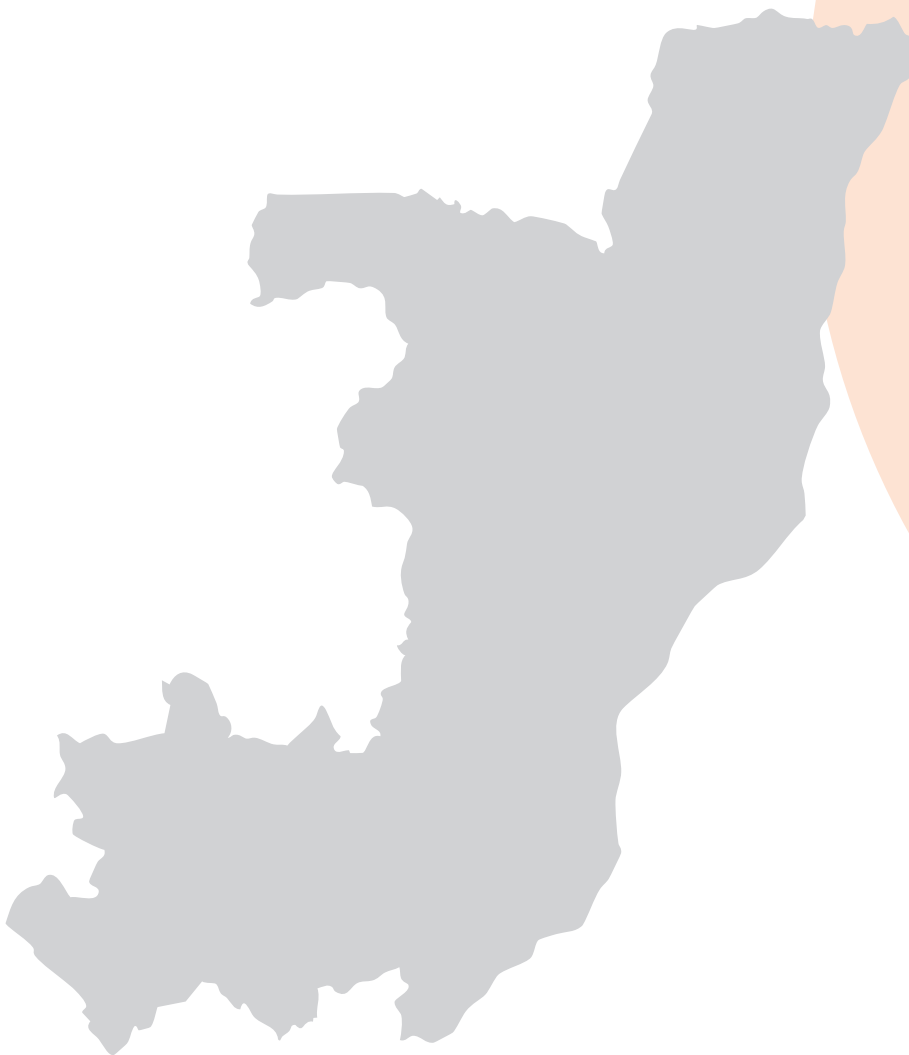


## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# CONGO BRAZZAVILLE:

The Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) is a nation of approximately 6.4 million people. The country faces significant structural barriers, including a 52% poverty rate and a youth unemployment rate of 42%. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints maintains a growing presence in the region, supported by the Brazzaville Mission.

Operations in Congo Brazzaville navigated a challenging but successful inaugural year in 2025. The team successfully placed **832 laptops** into students' hands. The office has set a 2026 goal to distribute upwards of 1,200 computers. To better serve the evolving needs of our academic community, we are prioritizing the future acquisition of high-performance devices with advanced processing power and storage to support specialized students in computer science, technology, and architecture.



# 832

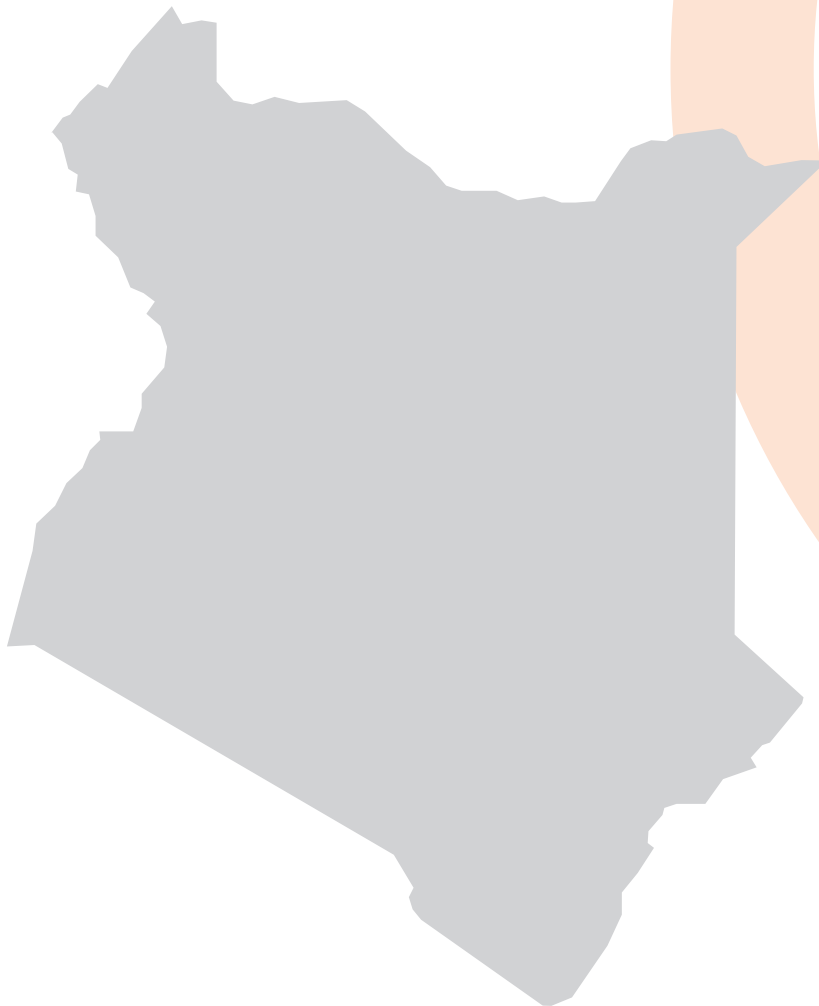
LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# KENYA:

Kenya is a leading regional hub for our East African operations, characterized by a rapidly digitalizing economy where access to technology remains a primary barrier for the underprivileged. Approximately 39.8% of Kenya's 53.3 million people live below the national poverty line. The country supports a dedicated community of 21,204 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints across two active missions.

The Kenya office also serves as a lifeline for students in Ethiopia and Tanzania. Ethiopia, the second-most populous nation in Africa with 120 million people, is facing a poverty rate projected to climb to 43% in 2025, yet it maintains a faithful community of 2,423 LDS members. Tanzania, with a population of approximately 68.6 million and 5,022 LDS members, faces a national poverty headcount of 47.2% and a significant divide between urban opportunity and rural need.



**2,120**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED



**287**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED



**38**

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# KENYA:

In 2025, the Kenya regional office achieved a total distribution of **2,445 laptops**. This impact was felt across borders, with devices delivered to students in **Kenya (2,120), Ethiopia (287), and Tanzania (38)**. These results were achieved despite operational challenges, including technical tracking issues with returned device IDs and the discovery of forged transcripts by some applicants. By the end of December, the hub faced an acute stock shortage with only 19 devices remaining, highlighting the urgent need for supply chain reinforcement. For 2026, the team has set a target to distribute over 200 laptops per month to qualified applicants.



## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# LIBERIA:

Liberia is a nation characterized by its remarkable resilience and its steady journey from a war-torn history toward a future of enduring peace. At Help Start Education Foundation, we believe that education is a primary architect of that peace. By distributing **833 laptops** to Liberian students, we are providing more than just technology; we are offering a gateway to global knowledge and self-reliance. With 23,217 Church members in the region and 867 students already enrolled in BYU-Pathway at year-end, the impact of these tools is immediate. These students are now equipped to help their communities experience lasting stability and professional growth.



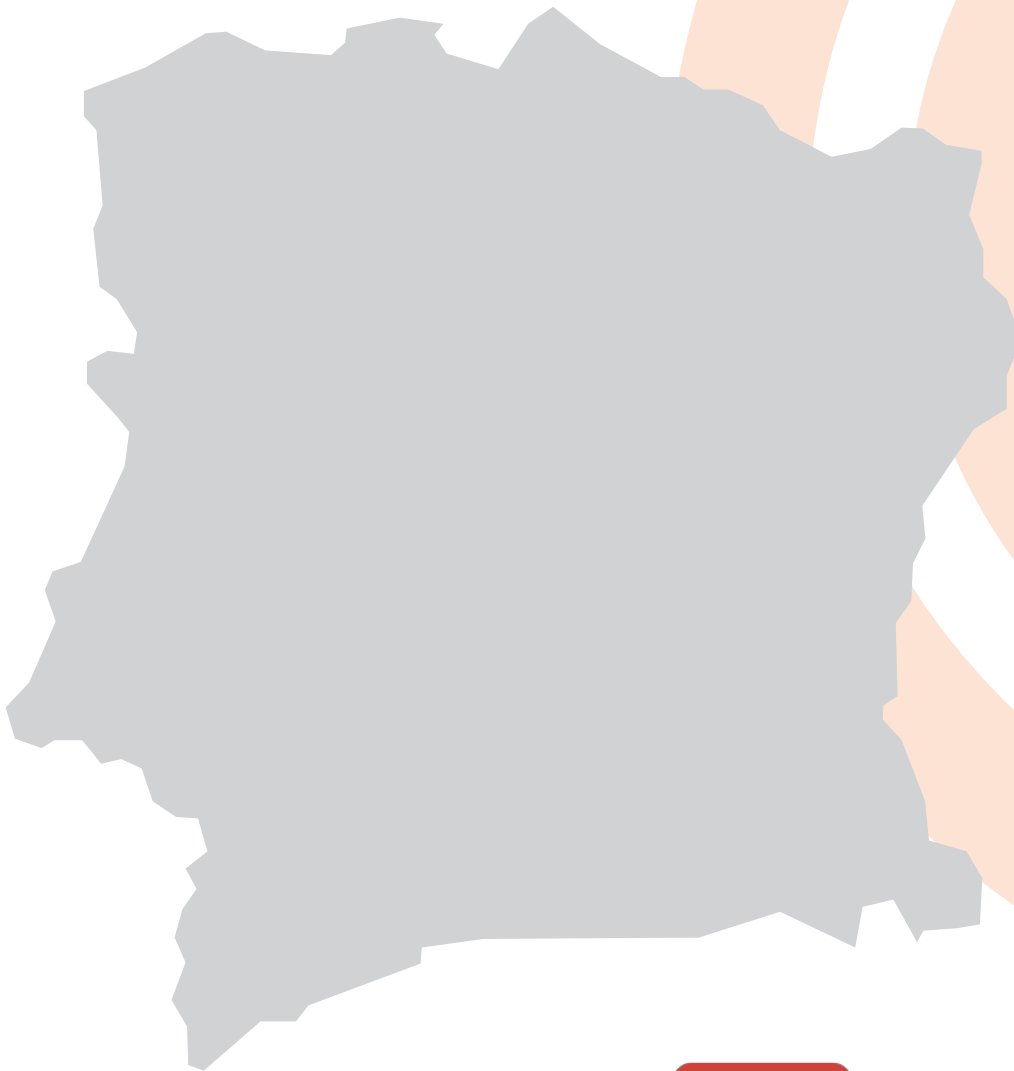
# 833

LAPTOPS DELIVERED

## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

# CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

2025 marked a season of profound spiritual and academic growth in Côte d'Ivoire, anchored by the historic dedication of the Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire Temple in May. This sacred milestone has served as a catalyst for progress across the nation's four missions. With a growing community of over 67,000 members, the demand for digital education tools has reached new heights. We have successfully delivered **340 laptops** to students in this region, supporting the 775 individuals currently enrolled in BYU-Pathway programs. These resources are empowering a new generation of leaders to strengthen their families and contribute to the rising prosperity of their nation.



**340**  
LAPTOPS DELIVERED

# LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2026

As we move into 2026, the Help Start Education Foundation is committed to two primary growth initiatives to further our mission of self-reliance:

**01**

## Expansion of the Returned Missionary Initiative

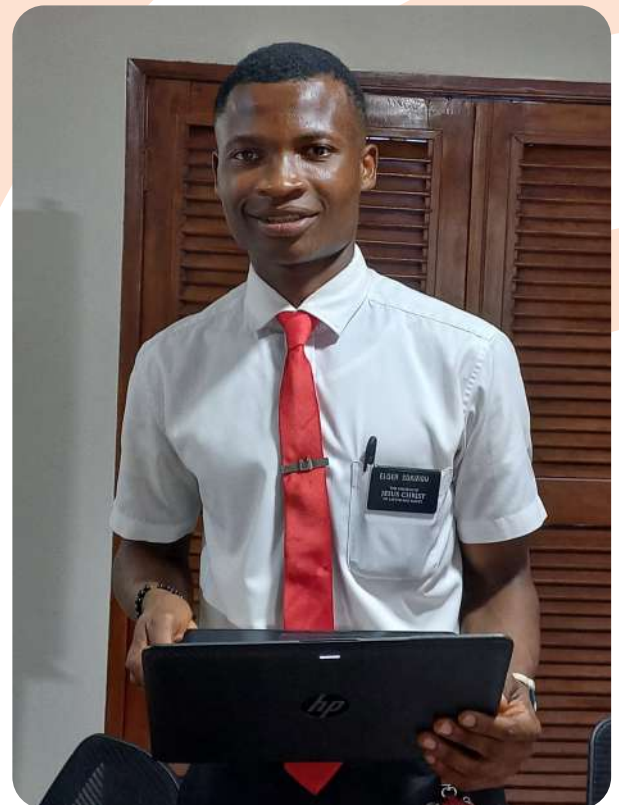
We will increase our support for LDS missionaries by providing them the opportunity to register for BYU-Pathway programs before they return home. By providing laptops to those in need, we provide an uninterrupted transition that gives returned missionaries continued purpose and sets them up for immediate academic success.

**02**

## Remote Work Partnerships

We are actively pursuing collaborations with US companies to hire BYU-Pathway graduates for remote work roles within Africa. This program will directly translate digital skills into sustainable income, allowing graduates to be truly self-reliant while remaining in their home communities.

# REFLECTION ON THE MISSIONARY PROGRAM



## MISSIONARY PROGRAM: OVERVIEW

For a missionary, the transition from the mission field back to daily life is often the "last mile" of their service—and sometimes the most difficult. After 18 to 24 months of intense structure and spiritual purpose, returning to a home where jobs are scarce and resources are limited can leave a young person feeling adrift. We believe their momentum shouldn't stop the moment they hang up their missionary tag.

To bridge this gap, we have focused on reaching these young leaders while they are still in the field. Through a strategic pilot program, missionaries can now enroll in BYU-Pathway before they return home. Help Start provides the essential tool for this transition: a personal laptop that travels home with them.

This structure ensures that their spiritual service is immediately followed by an academic path that can lift their entire family out of the cycle of poverty. We currently support this initiative in over 40 missions across Africa. In 2025, this vision expanded with new pilot launches in South Africa and Zimbabwe, where our teams have worked hand in hand with Mission Offices to ensure these deserving young men and women are equipped for a lifetime of self-reliance from the day they arrive home. To date 1269 laptops have been donated to returned missionaries.





To our donors and regional leaders  
Thank you for choosing to see our  
students for what they could be.  
Because of your trust, thousands of  
individuals are now becoming exactly  
what they should be.

**Help Start Education Foundation**

**Breaking the Cycle of Poverty.**

