

# Rafiki Thabo Foundation - 2024 online impact survey data



## Introduction

We sent a link to our online impact survey to all scholars and graduates that we hold email addresses for, posted it on the different country scholars' WhatsApp groups, and asked our in-country representatives to share it with as many scholars as possible. We received a total of 106 responses, of which 51 were from males and 55 from females. More than half of respondents live in Kenya, around a third from Uganda and the rest from Lesotho. 38.7% of the total respondents are graduates and 42.3% are in higher education. Such a high response rate from these segments is to be expected as those are the people who are more likely to have an email address or be on a WhatsApp group. We also distribute paper copies of the impact survey to school students wherever possible and use both sets of data to produce a more detailed impact report. This report sets out the findings from the 2024 online survey only.

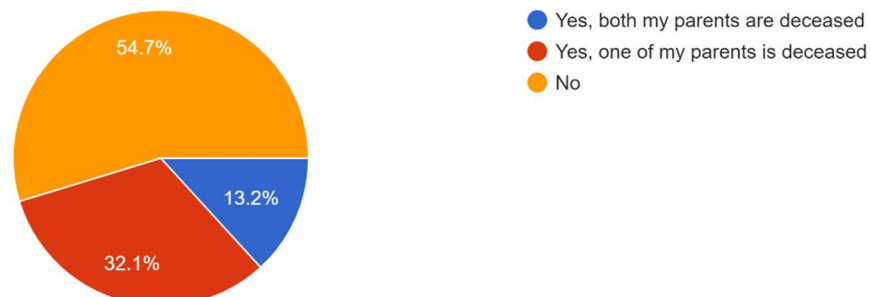
## Our impact

### 1. Parental status

Of the 106 respondents to this year's online impact survey, 45.3% have lost either one or both their parents. It goes without saying that, in countries where school or college fees are payable, it is extremely difficult for a child or young person with no parents to pay their school or college fees to continue with their education. Some may be taken in by wider family members but they are often already struggling to make ends meet, including sending their own children to school. Having one parent can also make it more difficult for children to continue with their education as the family are reliant on one income – and that income needs to be generated by someone who is also the only caregiver.

Are you an orphan?

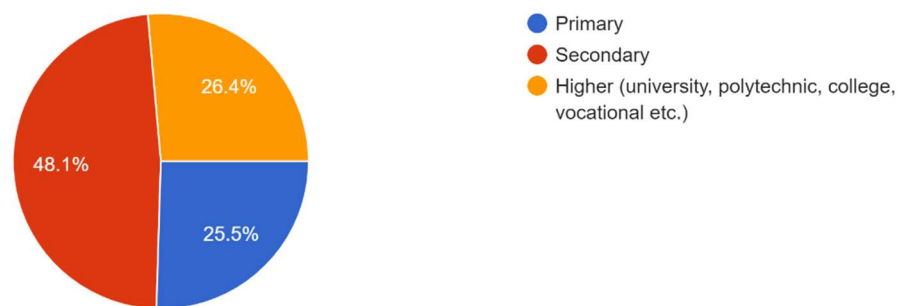
106 responses



### 2. Household - educational status

A quarter of the survey respondents come from households where the highest level of education achieved (apart from by the respondent) was primary school and almost half were from households where secondary school was the highest level achieved. Statistically, the chances of earning a decent income are affected by the level of education achieved: it is extremely difficult to find work with only primary education, there is more access to jobs with a secondary education but career choices are likely to be very limited. People stand a much better chance of securing decent work if they have some kind of higher education qualification, whether that is a degree, a diploma or certificate, or vocational training. By enabling access to higher education to as many of our scholars who aspire to learn at this level we believe we are contributing to them being able to break the cycle of poverty in which they and their households had become trapped.

Not including yourself, what is the highest level of education anyone in your household has completed?  
106 responses

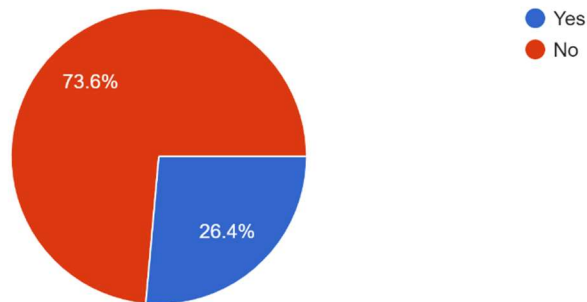


### 3. Household - employment status

Almost three-quarters of survey respondents come from a household where nobody else has a job. Without a stable source of income, it is very difficult for families who are struggling to make ends meet find enough money to consistently pay school fees (let alone much higher college fees) as incomes fluctuate – before we started supporting them, some of our scholars will have been continuing with their education but at a much slower rate as their attendance in school from term to term will have depended on their families’ ability to pay their fees. Many will have been ‘chased away’ from school for lack of fees, forcing them to miss a term or more before being able to get back into the classroom. This leads to a great deal of disruption to their education, slower progress, and a much greater risk of dropping out altogether.

Not including yourself, does anyone in your household have a job?

106 responses

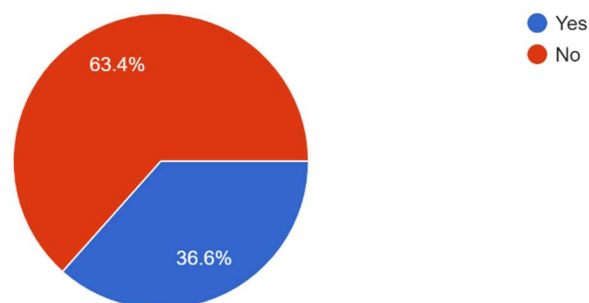


#### 4. Respondent employment status

63.4% of respondents have secured employment since completing their education and 93.3% of the roles secured are paid. 86.7% say they would not have been able to get the jobs they are in without having secondary education and 40% say that they needed their degree. Despite having achieved a good level of education it can be difficult to secure work in the labour markets in our programme countries and it often takes some time for our graduates to secure employment or start their own businesses. Among this year's respondents there are four teachers, an IT technician, a contract manager, a civil engineering technician, a school bursar, programme coordinators and a receptionist.

Do you have a job?

41 responses



#### 5. Giving back to others

78% of respondents say they are giving back to others in their community as a result of being supported by Rafiki Thabo Foundation. Examples of the kind of support they are giving include paying school fees for others in the household/ community; giving school items (pens etc to children who are struggling); guiding, tutoring, helping and counselling those still in education; helping street children; one of our deaf students visits and encourages other deaf people in society; providing hope and inspiration to others; planting trees in the local community; and volunteering for organisations helping others.

**Quotes illustrating the different being supported by Rafiki Thabo has made to respondents' lives:**

'I feel glorious about Rafiki Thabo support which has a bright future.'

'It has greatly helped me join the school of my dream and inspired me to work hard to achieve my educational goal of becoming an ophthalmologist to treat my ailing mum's eye.'

'It has restored my hope in my life and believe I will make change to the community and family.'

'Rafiki Thabo is a life saver, I don't know what I would be now if it wasn't for their help. I'm very grateful to Rafiki Thabo and wish all the best.'

'Rafiki Thabo has made a profound difference in my life by providing invaluable support that has helped me to pursue my education and personal growth. Through financial assistance, I've been able to access opportunities that I otherwise wouldn't have had. Moreover, being part of the Rafiki Thabo community has instilled in me a sense of belonging and empowerment, inspiring me to strive for excellence and give back to others in need. To be precise, Rafiki Thabo has been a transformative force, enriching my life in countless ways.'

'Rafiki Thabo has made a great impact in my life, the support you have given me since secondary school and now my college can't be explained with a few paragraphs. I had lost hope when I dropped out of school in secondary school and Rafiki Thabo came to my rescue and since then you have supported me all through, I'm forever grateful. I'm now pursuing a course which I've been passionate about since I was a child. Since I'm now in my final year, I'm hoping to finish and graduate and finally get a job and also help others who cannot manage to fund their education but want to work hard and achieve their dreams including my family members who didn't get the chance to reach where they wanted. Thank you soo much Rafiki Thabo Foundation for the great work you are doing and may God keep on blessing you.'

'It has made independent and reliable.'

'I couldn't have joined secondary school but Rafiki Thabo has enabled me join the school of my dreams. I highly thank the sponsors and God for using them to assist me and my mother.'

'The Foundation has played a pivotal role in shaping the woman I am today. When I faced obstacles in pursuing my education, Rafiki Thabo stepped in, providing not only financial assistance for my school fees but also supporting my everyday needs. Their unwavering support has been invaluable in helping me overcome challenges and achieve my goals.'

'It has given me the opportunity no one in my family has experienced...therefore am able to receive quality knowledge, exposure and skills which I can use to make positive change in my society.'

'I would be no person today if Rafiki Thabo didn't help me by supporting my studies. Once done with my studies, I will be able to get employment sustain myself and the livelihood of the people around me.'

'Rafiki Thabo came to my aid after Corona outbreak and my dad lost his job. I have reached this far because of Rafiki Thabo. I look forward to completing college by end of 2024 and get a job to support my family.'

'It has made such a huge difference as through my training I have gained alot of expertise and social experience to serve my community especially in matters health! I'm also learning to help others who are as unfortunate as me through volunteering.'

'Rafiki Thabo has made a difference in my life, the fact worth mentioning in terms of intellectual understanding, my view and general knowledge has grown due to the organization lending hand to support my education in university. This act also directs and motivate me towards helping those in need in future.'

'It is helping me know the actual road to my success.'

'Being able to finish my university with no hiccup made me not go through early marriage, it helped me realise the great potential I have in myself.'

'It has tremendously impacted my educational life..if it were not Rafiki Thabo I could be nowhere in the society.'

'Rafiki Thabo has shed a light to my dreams which once seemed unachievable! I'm going to have a degree in computer science, thanks to the foundation.'

'I wouldn't be who I am and where I am now if it wasn't for Rafiki support. I owe you big time.'

'I was unable to go to school after my good performance in primary school but Rafiki Thabo Foundation came to rescue me and now am educated and still being educated. I can also bring bread on the table for my people and others in need that's the difference they have made in my life.'

'Rafiki Thabo has really changed my life, I have acquired many skills from the university because of Rafiki.'

'Changed my life even I have hopes of one time becoming a very important person.'

'Rafiki Thabo has given me a big opportunity to better my future. Rafiki has inspired me that though things become tough on you, an opportunity can still come to you and make your life better. And with that I thank Rafiki because I know many people have been blessed through it and me inclusive. Rafiki has given me another chance to brighten my future and I will forever be grateful to it. And I thank it because am in school one more time when I was almost giving up.'

'Rafiki Thabo has helped me complete my studies up to the university level and I'm very grateful. I have gained confidence, hope and I've learnt to help other people who are

hopeless just like I was. I can transform my community now.. God bless you dear sponsors.'

'It has made me feel special by financing my studies.'

'It has really motivated me alot to stand firm in whatever situation I face.'

'It has as well given me hope in life, taught me to work hard but above all loved me as a parent could love his or her child.'

'It has helped me much in my education because without you I would have stopped schooling when I was still in senior two because by then I had even spent two years without studying because my mother couldn't manage to pay school fees because even her she doesn't have any job just to work for other people in their gardens before I join senior one but with your support you helped me to attained my education by now I have reached my third year at the University you people God bless you abundantly like the way He blessed Abraham and his descendants. And you people long live in this world because I was very hopeless because even in our family am the one who had finished primary level, secondary level and campus level more appreciation to you all may God bless you more and more in this world. And I promise you to keep helping others whether I have or not in the name of Jesus Christ our lord.'

'Further studies was just a dream until Rafiki came through for me.'

'It has upgraded my status and made my dreams to come earlier than it would be without the foundation.'

'It has improved my standards in all ways.'

'It has changed my life by educating me so that I can fulfill my future ambitions.'

'Through the foundation I've gone to the university where I've been able to gain a lot of knowledge not only in books but gaining a different perspective on life.'

'Rafiki has made me get qualifications for paying jobs. I too earn money to sustain my family and pay school fees for my niece and nephew.'

'It has greatly helped me join the school of my dream and inspired me to work hard to achieve my educational goal of becoming an ophthalmologist to treat my ailing mum's eye.'

'I was able to pursue my dream career through Rafiki Thabo support and I'm really grateful.'

'I truly feel that Rafiki Thabo has crafted the better future I have always longed for. With the support of the Rafiki Thabo Foundation, my dreams are coming true.'

'I'm no longer being expelled from school because of owing school fees.'