



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024





## A word from the Program Director

It's been eight years since the first gathering of the HALI Access Network at Chengeta Lodge in Zimbabwe. In those years, the network has become a trusted partner in sub-Saharan Africa for international higher education stakeholders keen to invest in the diverse talent in our communities. We take great pride in the work our member organizations do at the grassroots level, identifying highly talented youth in under-resourced communities and preparing them to thrive at some of the most competitive global universities. Our alumni go on to positively disrupt their college campuses by bringing their unique experiences, talents, and cultures while utilizing resources available to them to pursue their passions. When you contextualize the limitations our students face in their pursuit of education, the limited resources at most of our member organizations, and the maze of admissions pathways to global universities, the collective results of this community are simply astounding. We are grateful to all our members for their commitment to our mission, the Friends of HALI who have joined us to make higher education more accessible, and our partners who believe in and support our mission



Photo: Indaba 2024



# 2024 KEY MILESTONES

*Reflecting on our 2024 priorities...*

01

## APPROVED CHARITY STATUS

HALI Access Network Inc. is now a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) charity in the US (EIN 88-4309699)

We are excited by the potential this grants us to fundraise and strengthen our governance structures. You can now support our work by donating through [our website](#) or simply clicking [here](#).

02

## LAUNCH OF THE BRIDGE FUND

With generous support from the VF Foundation, we launched the Bridge Fund to help HALI students cover transition costs that prevent them from unlocking hard-earned scholarship awards.

The Bridge Fund covers transition costs such as visa fees, passports, flights and other one-off expenses often excluded from financial aid/scholarship packages.



# BRIDGE FUND

## 2024 Highlights...

In 2023, our annual survey showed that 25 HALI students received admission to university with full financial aid but could not enroll due to the inability to afford transition costs. We are mobilizing funds to support our students in closing these gaps, which are considerably small compared to the hundreds of thousands they've already worked hard for and earned in scholarship support.

In 2024, the fund bridged that gap for 11 students who travelled to their new campus communities at Smith College, MIT, Soka University of America, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, among other institutions. The Bridge Fund has enabled our students to collectively unlock \$921,616.39 in financial aid annually.



*I am grateful for your support and the grant to cover immigration expenses. It will help me prepare for school without as much financial anxiety.*

*Eliphase - an alumnus of Tujenge Africa Foundation and a freshman at Northwestern University.*

**\$921,616.39**

The total amount that The Bridge Fund has enabled our students to collectively unlock in financial aid annually.

**11**

Number of students supported through the Bridge Fund in 2024.



# 2024 Highlights...

150

No of participants who attended the HALI-wide pre-departure workshop in July 2024

“

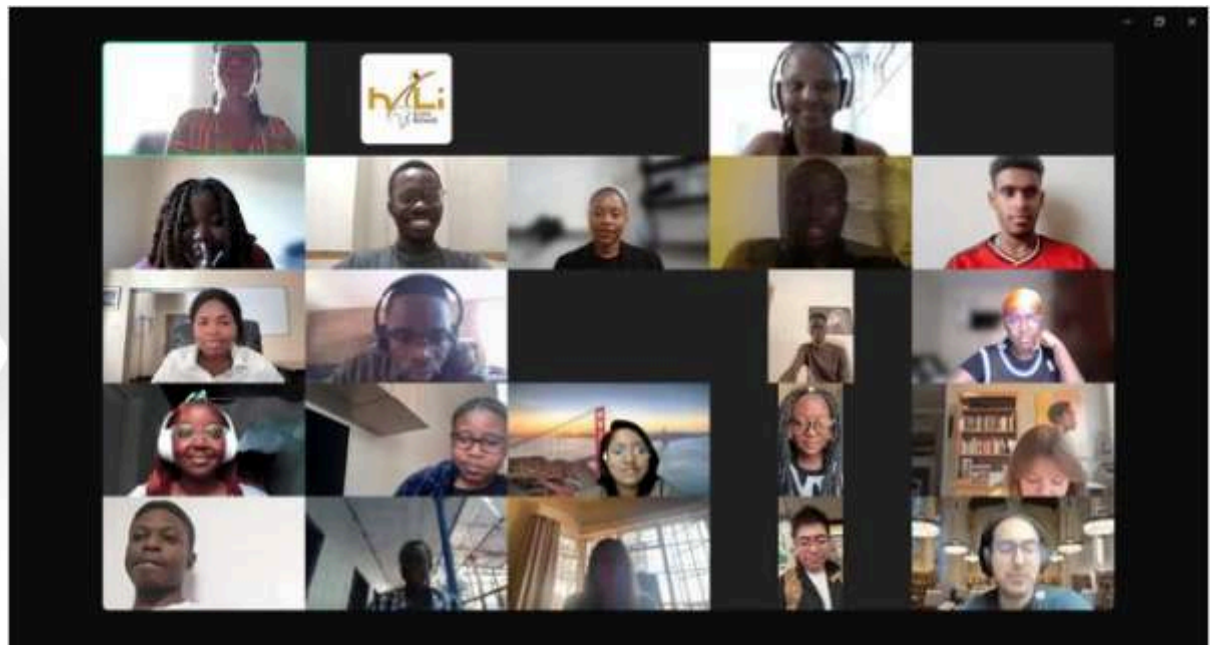
“The session was so insightful. I gained a lot of knowledge that will help me kickstart my journey as a freshman at university.”

Tionge - Freshman at Smith College,  
Alumni of Our Moon, Zambia

”

## HALI-wide pre-departure workshop

110 incoming freshmen and 40 continuing students, all alumni of our member organizations, gathered virtually in July to learn and build connections before heading out to university. This was a forum run for and by our alumni to create a platform for them to share their experiences and connect with others headed to the same or a nearby university.



### HALI Access Joint Pre-Departure: Settling and thriving on campus

As the excitement of a new academic year fills the air, over 100 students from different HALI member organizations are getting ready to start a new journey – joining University abroad.



The need for connections lies at the heart of why the HALI Access Network is essential for education access. We bring together professionals from around the world and both sides of the admissions desk to support African HALI students to pursue their higher education goals.

9th

The 9th annual Indaba in Rwanda brought together 75 education access advocates - 39 access organizations, 22 universities, and partners - to discuss the theme "Global Learners, Local Leaders."

3

Number of access schools onboarded in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Rwanda into HALI membership.

24

Number of Universities connected to/with with over 1,000 students and counselors through virtual information and in-person sessions.

10

Number of HALI affiliated students selected out of the total 100 admitted by Rise Global - a program of Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust.

13

Universities across Africa, the U.S., Europe and Asia joined the HALI Access Network.





# 2024 Highlights...



## Supporting Access Organizations and Schools

There are many NGOs and schools in sub-Saharan Africa working to ensure that talented youth in their communities transition to higher education. However, not all of them have equal access to opportunities, information, or resources to do their work. The HALI Access Network is bridging this gap by providing mentorship, professional development opportunities, and financial resources to support our members as they pursue their missions.

Number of hours our community spent in online training to build the capacity of counselors in our member organizations

522

Amount in application-related fee waivers issued to members through the support of two partners - the College Board and InitialView

\$45,055

HALI member organizations received year-long mentorship from an experienced HALI member

11



## Quick Facts...

This year, the HALI Access community attended strategic international higher education conferences to create awareness of the needs of HALI students before, during, and after admission. Our members hosted panels, facilitated workshops, and exhibited at professional gatherings, including the annual International ACAC conference, the IC3 Conference & Expo, the CIS Global Forum, the BMI Africa Regional Forum.

Total No of Friends of HALI across 4 continents.

51

Total No of Member organizations across 16 African countries.

39

Total No of 2023/24 student cohort.

1,777

8,400

Cumulative hours committed to virtual sessions.

54.25%

% of the student cohort admitted with full scholarship/financial aid.

\$193M+

Total Amount awarded in scholarships in 2024





## Member Spotlight



ELIMISHA KAKUMA

Congratulations to Annika of Elimisha Kakuma, Julius of Agahozo Youth Shalom Village, Kingsley of Open Dreams Cameroon, and Sahara of Zawadi Africa for being selected as 2024 International ACAC Scholars.

Our friend, USIU-Africa (Kenya), celebrated the graduation of their first MasterCard Foundation Scholars program cohort. We were pleased to join in the celebration and cheer alumni of our members African Leadership Academy and Imagine Scholar, who were part of the inaugural cohort.



United States  
International  
University-Africa



Our member, Education Matters (Zimbabwe), recently celebrated the grand opening of the USAP Community School permanent campus. We celebrate this ground-breaking milestone and its possibilities for HALL students in Zimbabwe.

We joined two members, Open Dreams Cameroon and SHOFKO (Kenya), in celebrating 10 and 20 years of championing education access as a means of community development, respectively.





## 2024 Partner Appreciation

We thank all our 2024 supporters for their financial and in-kind donations. Their partnership has enabled us to bring opportunities and resources closer to where they are most needed.



...and ALL other individual donors.



# SUPPORT



Find us on    

We depend on donations to run the network and support our members. HALI Access Network is a 501(c)(3) charity in the US (EIN 88-4309699) and donations are tax-deductible.

## Here are ways you can Donate:

Set up a recurring donation through PayPal: [Donate](#)  
Send us a check made out to HALI Access Network, Inc. to:  
HALI Access Network, Inc.  
230 Beaver Road, Bovina Center, New York, 13740

Contact [misco@haliaccess.org](mailto:misco@haliaccess.org) to give your time or to donate a service or product.