

What is CHATS?

Delve deeper and learn more about the origins, background, and impact of AGE Africa's broadest-reaching program.

Tiyambe motere! (Let's get started!)

WHY?

Early on, AGE Africa understood that scholarships were not enough to help girls in Malawi stay in and graduate from secondary school. Introduced in 2013 and created by Malawians for Malawians, **Creating Healthy Approaches to Success (CHATS)** addresses the barriers girls face that prevent them from finishing school.

WHAT?

CHATS is setup as a weekly after-school program aimed at empowering girls with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to advocate for themselves and for healthy life choices. It is open to all the female scholars in each of AGE Africa's 24 partner schools and the curriculum is taught by the girls' themselves, ensuring a peer-led approach to learning.

THREE YEAR MODEL

CHATS is a three-year program that scholars start during their second year in secondary school. The curriculum tackles different topics and builds on concepts learned as the girls advance through from one grade to the next.

YEAR 1

Life Skills, Leadership, Sexual & Reproductive Health, and Gender Rights

Scholars get trained as group facilitators and public speakers to learn to lead CHATS sessions. Content covered includes self-awareness, decision making, and conflict management; sexual and reproductive health; and a review of gender, gender-based rights, and gender-based violence and prevention.

YEAR 2

Tertiary Education and Future Planning

Scholars prepare for their futures by learning about core requirements for graduation and the transition to university or vocational school, as well as various career opportunities through guest speakers. They start goal setting and are introduced to new skills through small business development, entrepreneurship and job readiness training, and through self-initiated small-scale, local activism projects.

YEAR 3

Entrepreneurship Practicum

This year offers an opportunity to apply and practice the skills developed since day one. Participants are tasked with designing and managing a local entrepreneurship project that alleviates a gap and contributes to the development of their community or school.

ADDITIONAL FACTS



CHATS is open to all the female scholars in each of AGE Africa's 24 partner schools.



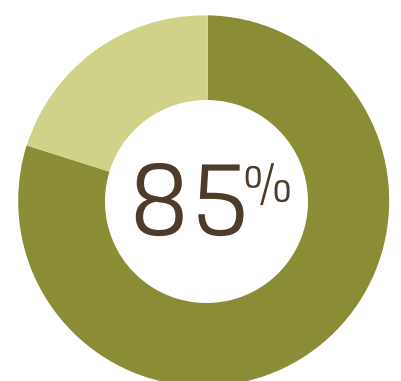
The curriculum is taught by the girls' themselves, ensuring a peer-led approach to learning.



A trained staff member at each school serves as the CHATS Faculty Advisor, helps with facilitation, especially when difficult topics are discussed, and acts as an advocate for the girls.



CHATS positively impacts girls' retention and achievement in school, improves their post-secondary transitions, and enables them to act as agents of change.



Did you know?

More than 85% of AGE Africa scholars delayed marriage and pregnancy because of CHATS