



DMI DEVELOPMENT MISSION, MALAWI

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**



Acknowledgement

DMJ expresses gratitude to God the almighty for the blessings on us to successfully carry out the socio-development programs in 2022.

DMJ would like to thank donors and well-wishers for the financial support that helped the target communities to have access to socio-economic status in the society.

DMJ would like to thank all staff team and members for their commitments, assistance and this endeavor would not have been possible without the support of the founder, superior general, provincials and country directors. DMJ thanks them for their motivation, guidance and technical support in transforming their life with due dignity.



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Message from the Mission Director

Amid the profound upheaval of 2022, DMI's fundamental purpose never wavered. We began our 14th year as an organization with the utmost confidence in our program strategy in Malawi. We ended the year more certain than ever of the essential and life-changing role in connecting people, improving lives, and developing communities.



I am pleased with the strides that we made in 2022 to foster diversity and make our organization even more inclusive and visible. The foundational values of integrity, transparency, and accountability drive long-term success for our organization and the countries where we operate, and the communities we serve. I have always valued and appreciated DMI team members' rise to meet every challenge and opportunity despite challenges. We thank them for taking that dedication to new heights this past year as they adapted to the challenges of a global pandemic and delivered uninterrupted service for the vulnerable women and children communities to the most. Throughout 2022, we responded to the economic impacts and operational setbacks with strong governance. We made tactical adjustments as needed, but the core elements of our program strategy remained unchanged in 2022.

2022 brought severe economic hardships that threatened our program growth and expansion for the people to a prosperous life in our intervention areas. However, our program strategies and initiatives reached even deeper and went further to help bridge these gaps. In this way, we were upholding human rights and supporting our target beneficiaries to access socio-economic status.

I would like to thank my fellow sisters-superior general, provincials, country director, and our father founder for their support and for contributing their expertise and skills. Although some uncertainty remains in our organization and the countries we serve, I feel confident that DMI is on a strong footing as we begin this New Year. It is my privilege to share this 2022 Malawi Annual Report that brings forth the impact of our dedication to connecting with purpose in all that we do.

May God Bless You and Our Mission!

Rev. Sr. Vijili Dali

Message from the Country Director

DMI programs in 2022 will not soon forget. Despite the financial crisis and challenges, we continued our mission; our team maintained an uninterrupted level of service and supported the target populations covering Lilongwe and Mangochi regions in Malawi to accomplish significant achievements in life.



We need to acknowledge that in early 2022 we spent a lot of time looking at our mission and thinking about what it means to be a nonprofit organization that serves a community of people. We have decided to be real action focused, which translated to removing barriers and creating opportunities for families to take their first steps outside together.

Our women empowerment and child development programs are on the move to support women and children to know their rights and practice them for their empowerment.

I'm thankful to the leadership of DMI for believing in our work and to the members of our project management team for their continued guidance and support during this challenging move. I'm honored to see our staff remain dedicated to our work during this complex period for our organization.

Our accomplishments last year were not limited to our headquarters move. In 2022, we held multiple virtual events that brought together one mission. These included our women's day, Independence Day, children's day, and human rights day celebrations. A huge thanks to our team for coordinating these events and our stakeholders for your continued support in this virtual world!

We are trying to build a partnership with various funding organizations at the national level. If they agree on funding, new resources will be available in the coming year. Many thanks for the time and effort of this group and their support. A special shout-out and sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. J.E. Arulraj, the founder of DMI who immensely provided his support and guidance to us.

My sincere thanks to our mission director, superior general, and provincials for their encouragement and directions, and to my team sisters for their co-operations in the difficult situation to progress and achieve our mission in 2022.

We will continue our community development programming with grassroots efforts and allow them to implement their versions of our programming in their local communities, creating welcoming spaces and encouraging families of all kinds to get outside. Once again, I thank you all, and I welcome you all to entrust ourselves into the hands of God for all his blessings and graces to move greater in 2023.

Sr. Sunitha.

INTRODUCTION

Since 2008, DMI has been serving the most marginalised and the underprivileged communities through various development programs in Malawi. Women, children and youth communities are reached by addressing the issues of poverty; illiteracy; child labor; and unemployment. This annual report describes the key activities implemented and achieved to empower women, children and youth communities through trainings, women self-help groups, and education support and children parliaments in two regions. We helped women to improve their household income, children have access to formal education and youths to have employable opportunities.

VISION

Loving God in serving the poor to be fully human and fully alive

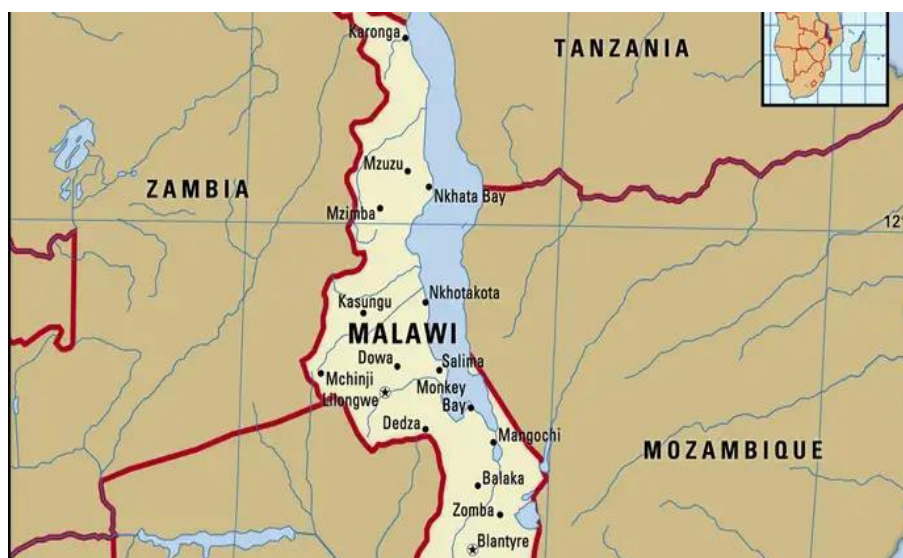
MISSION

Committed to love and serve the poor especially the marginalized women and children, to enable them to get their legitimate rights and share in education, health, security, and livelihood and to free them from human bondages.

VALUES

***Accountability
Justice
Integrity
Dignity
Collaboration***

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



RATIONALE FOR IMPLEMENTING FOLLOWING PROGRAM

Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world despite making significant economic and structural reforms to sustain economic growth. Malawi is landlocked, sharing its borders with Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania in Southern Africa. The country has an estimated population of 19.65 million (world bank-2021), which is expected to double by 2038. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, which employs over 85% of the population, and is vulnerable to external shocks, particularly climatic shocks.

About 86% population in Malawi continues to rely on subsistence, rainfed agriculture, which limits its growth potential, increases its susceptibility to weather shocks and creates food insecurity.

Despite their critical role in food production for their households, Malawian women have little control over land, even when it is their own. The lack of access to productive economic resources is frequently cited as a major impediment to gender equality and women's empowerment and is a particularly important factor in making women vulnerable to poverty. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a serious development challenge in Malawi. Traditional beliefs, cultural practices, and patriarchy encourage child marriage and marginalize women.

In Malawi, the male-female ratio in schools, universities, and higher positions in public service and industry generally favors the male gender. Girls education was not their priority, they get married, have children, and serve their husbands and society. Women and girls do not have equal rights in literacy, secondary and tertiary education enrolment, and completion, wage equality, and political participation.

Statistics from the Ministry of Education and the Malawi National Commission show out of 18 million populations, five million people are illiterate. Approximately 27 people out of every 100 are unable to read and write. For aged 15 years, the most common reasons for having never enrolled in school are lack of money for fees and school uniforms, the state of being orphans and disabled, and there was no school nearby. Poor performance of children in classrooms and extracurricular skills pushes away them out of school and work as child laborers. The Rural and the poor children lack leadership qualities to stand out and lead their community. As poverty becomes more prevalent, more underage children are ending up as laborers. Over 2 million under-age children (5 to 14 years) are involved in child labor in Malawi.

KEY PROGRAM STRATEGIES

- Empowering women through self-help groups and training on entrepreneurship
- Transforming smallholder agriculture to commercial through Sustainable farming practices
- Improving children's ability to access a quality of education and leadership through children's parliaments and tuition centres

COUNTRY KEY RESULTS

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic, and health status are highly essential for DMI. Women empowerment programs enabled them to have access to socio-economic in society. We educate women members with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence to participate fully in the development process.

In the concluded year, we were able to facilitate and build the capacities of women to practice sustainable farming, start small businesses and raise family income through SHGs and federations. The following are the key results of the programs...



- *Formed and strengthened 21 new and old self-help groups that accumulated 357 women members*
- *Trained over 220 women members in various skill training – vegetable gardening, mushroom cultivation, soap making, candle making, and tailoring*
- *Facilitated 115 women members who have a regular income from their small businesses*
- *Encouraged 644 farming families to engage themselves in sustainable farming practice*
- *DMI women federation supported over 500 children with educational supplies*

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Children in Malawi face numerous problems such as school dropouts, child marriage, child trafficking, child labor, sexual exploitation, etc. To prevent the target children from various forms of exploitation and violations, DMI imparts knowledge of child rights and improves their access to education, health, leadership, and participation. We mobilize them into children's parliaments to understand the system of parliaments and adopt the same practices in the groups. We improve their academic performance and extracurricular skills through tuition programs. In the above ways, we aim to strengthen and realize the rights of children in Malawi.

- *About 725 school children become members of DMI children parliaments*
- *Over 450 children have improved academic performance and extracurricular skills through the after-school program (tuition centers)*
- *96 children have started practicing their leadership skills and guiding their members to address issues related to children*
- *51 children members have learned and adopted the knowledge and practice of parliaments in their groups*
- *2933 women and children members have participated in various celebrations- international women's day, African children's day, girl child day, and Independence Day*



SPECIAL EVENTS, VISITS AND MEDIA COVERAGE



Promotion of Group and inward activities: During year 2022, 1,382 members have saved an amount of MK4,032,190 through self-help group



Women equipping themselves in tailoring course. Over 110 women have a regular income and
Women learning soap making skills



Group business: 115 women members from 8 SHGs have initiated group business in soap making, vegetable cultivation, piggery farming etc.



Leadership training for women members: 15 executive members improved their leadership skills and applied their learnings.



Networking: we have established a strong collaboration and network with Seed-co company that enabled us to support 167 women members with maize seeds for the cultivation in Sandula, Mchezi and Mbalame centers.



Malawi Parliament Visit: 51 CP members visited the parliament of Malawi during children's day celebration on 11th Aug-2022. Deputy Ministry of gender and Ministry of local governance supported DMI to organize this program for the children to enhance the knowledge of parliament system.



Health Awareness: 160 women members sensitized on cervical cancer through health awareness program in Mitembo, Dowa District. The resource person was Madam Annastanzia who explained about the causes, signs, and symptoms of cervical cancer. Sr. Sunitha, DMI encouraged the women to go for cancer screening.



Tuition centers

We have strengthened 9 tuition centers of which 5 tuition centers were reorganized to impart education and extracurricular skills for the children.



Celebration of International Women's Day - On 26th Mar 2022, we celebrated international women's day with the theme of **gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**. Over 200 women members and chief guests participated and disseminated information about gender equity and upholding women's rights. The chief guest speech mainly focused on breaking the bias and encouraging women to aim high and achieve socio-economic status with dignity. Women members performed cultural items and raised their voices for their rights



Independence day celebration - we have observed the independence day celebration on 6th July 2022 at Mbalame Primary school. Over 250 children, women members, and school teachers participated in this 58th year of the Independence Day celebration. Chief guests encouraged the women and children to work hard and have hope for a bright future.



Celebration of Girl Child Day- We commemorated the **Girl child day celebration** with more than 150 children on 20 October 2022 at Mbalame Primary School in Dowa District. Girls' education was the prime focus of the event, and nurturing girls with dignity in the right direction was emphasized. Children performed poems, drama, Chiteler, and choir to emancipate them from all clutches of human bondage to enhance their self-esteem and access socio-economic life in their communities.



Mission counselor visit

Sr. Viji, mission counselor of DMI visited the DMI team on 29th August 2022 in Malawi and planned to revitalize development programs with a strategic plan in Malawi.



Africa Directo team visits Malawi

On 28 October, Mr. Jose Maria, the Director of Africa Directo from Spain visited DMI team and interacted with women and children in two different places.

COUNTRY KEY RESULTS DATA

No. of Villages reached	57
No. of Households reached	6548
No. of Women Members	1455
No. of families engaged in farming	644
No. of Youth covered	411
No. of children parliament members	725
No. of Children reached	450

ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2023

- Formation of 30 women SHGs and strengthening the inactive 20 old groups
- Promotion of 4 VLF and 2 DLF
- Organize Capacity Building Training for 300 women Members – leadership, entrepreneurship, Business Development, agriculture, etc.
- Vocational Training for women and young girls
- Organising Income Generation training for 200 women - candle making, peanut, jam making, mushroom, handcraft, and sugar making skills.
- Organize community-based awareness programs for 500 community members - malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB, Cancer, cholera, Tree plantation, environment day
- Forming 5 new children parliaments and strengthening 13 old children parliament
- Restructuring 9 tuition centers for the poor and the needy children
- Organize leadership training and extracurricular skills for 400 children
- Celebrations: women's day, children's day, Girl child day, Independence day, mother's day, and sports day for children.

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