



DMI MALAWI MISSION



ANNUAL REPORT - 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR



DMI mission in Malawi, since 2008 have been supporting women in rural and semi-urban areas to form their community institution – known as self-help group (SHG), save small amount, take and repay loan, meet regularly and enhance their capacities. I am happy to state that about 30 % of members have taken loan and used for investment in small businesses which in turn have increased their income. DMI will continue to support members to increase their income and living standards.

DMI promoted women SHG members to produce “Organic manure’ which is used by small-holder women farmers instead of costly chemical-based fertilizer. This method helped women farmers to increase their crop production leading to improved household food security.

DMI organized vocational training for 56 youth members in two trades (Tailoring and Beauty arts) in its Lilongwe Vocational School and majority of the trainees have taken up employment or have started own business.

I thank the DMI members, staff and volunteers whose commitment and dedication has supported the realization of the mission and values of DMI Global mission. My thanks to the leaders and management of the DMI Trust and college in Malawi for their continuous support to the development work. Special thanks to all donors and supporters of the Malawi mission whose support assisted to implement the programs and realize lasting impact on the lives of women and youth.

Thanks to Fr. JE Arulraj, Founder, Sr. Lalitha, Superior general and Sr. Viyagammal, Vice Provincial for their guidance and support to strengthen the Malawi mission.

May God Bless you all.

Sr.Vijili Dali, DMI

DMI Global Mission Director

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Malawi was affected by the Tropical Cyclone Freddy in March, 2023. The Cyclone caused significant damage to infrastructures, loss of life, injury, and displacement of 659,000 people. More than 200,000 hectares of crop-land were destroyed. The effects of the cyclone lead to drastic reduction of crop production, especially maize that constitutes 70% of national food consumption and increased the number of households facing hunger and food insecurity.

With the grace of God, Jesus Christ, DMI/Malawi' social development programs continued to support women in the rural areas of Lilongwe by promoting and strengthening women' SHGs and federations. DMI established partnership with a seed company that donated maize seed to members of SHGs. After harvest, the members gave back a portion of their production. The sale proceeds of the collected maize have become the 'loan capital' for federation. Members take loan from federation, start small-business and increase their income. DMI trained SHG members to prepare Organic fertilizer using locally available materials. Several trained members used the organic fertilizer and stated increase in crop production.

DMI established Tuition centers for slow-learners had supported children to learn the fundamental concepts and practice child-learning methods. These motivated children attended government school regularly and improved their class-room learnings. The Children's Parliament established supported children to learn about the governance structure and its roles in Malawi and gave them opportunities to take up leadership roles.

DMI organized Vocational training to youth members. These short-term courses on Tailoring, Catering and Basic computers helped the trainees to acquire the required skills and become employed or start their small-business. Events like Women's Day, children's Day, Mother's Day, Independence Day, and Girl Child Day were celebrated with active participation of SHG members and children.

Thanks to our Founder Father. JE Arulraj, Superior General, Mission Director, Vice-provincial and donors support that helped DMI/Malawi to effectively plan and implement the community-based programs. Our special thanks to the leadership and managers of St. John the Baptist University, especially Mr. Herman and others for their continued support, guidance and financial contribution which helped us to implement the social development program, My special thanks to the Malawi program team members – sisters and staff whose dedication and hard-work contributed to the results.

Sr.Sunitha, DMI

Country Director, Malawi



INTRODUCTION

DMI Congregation's Malawi mission was registered in 2008 as Trust of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and collaborators and its program includes the establishment and management of higher education institutions and designing and implementing social development programs. This report covers annual (2023) activities conducted under the social development programs by three DMI sisters and eight national staff members.

VISION

**“Loving God
and serving
the poor to
be fully
human and
fully alive”**

MISSION

**To enable
underprivileged
communities
especially women,
children, and youth,
to become
champions of change
by providing them
with the best
opportunities for
their education and
development.**

VALUES

**Accountability,
justice,
Integrity,
Collaboration
Dignity**

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



COUNTRY FACT-SHEET

S.No	Particulars	Status as of December, 2023	Status as of December, 2022
A	Geographic Coverage		
1	Number of program districts	2 Districts Lilongwe & Dowa	2 Districts
2	Number of Villages under each district	46 (Lilongwe 36 & Dowa 10)	30
B	Participant coverage		
1	SHG membership and membership with Village and District Federation	1199 Members (60SHGs, 6VLFs, 1DLF)	643 Members (46SHGs, 5VLFs)
2	Membership in the 13 Child Parliaments	725 Children	1372 (725CP + 647 Tuition)
3	Children receiving special coaching in Tuition Centres	297	
4	Youths trained in two trades - Tailoring and Beauty Arts at the Vocational School	56	16
5	Number of DMI college students participated in the "Outreach education' module	40	-
C	Key results under each program		
1	Savings amount of 60 SHGs in USD (@ 1000 Mkw = 1 USD)	3325	4,032
2	Funds utilized for loan by 60 SHGs in USD (@ 1000 Mkw)	6426	
3	Loans taken by 14 SHGs from federation and started income generation activities (@ 1000 Mkw)	1180	
4	Number of members trained on three Income generation skills	159	
5	Number of trained members started income generation activities	17	4 trainings, 213
6	Number of members trained on Low-cost Fertilizer Preparation	182	
7	Number of members received Maize seeds	643	
8	Number of girl students receiving scholarship for school education	3	
9	Number of children received medical support - medicines	141	

PROGRAM STRATEGIES

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

- Formed 13 new SHGs and reformed 5 SHG and our total support was to 68 groups with 1199 women. We supported the formation of one district level federation in Lilongwe.
- The 68 SHGs savings was MKW 3,325,000 (USD 3325) and annual loan value was MKW 6,426,000 (USD 6426) and interest generated was MKW 253,223 (USD 253).
- Training to 607 members was conducted during the regular SHG meetings on book keeping, leadership, entrepreneurship and marketing.
- Six-months tailoring training for 24 trainees was conducted at our Vocational school at Lilongwe. 163 trainees were trained on Soap making and Candle making.
- Trained 182 SHG women to produce 'organic fertilizer' by using locally available resources.
- Obtained 2,000 Kgs maize seed donation from a seed company and given to 643 SHG members. Each member received 3 kgs, planted half acre and harvested 300 to 400 kgs of maize.
- All members gave back 3 kgs of the harvested maize to their respective federation, and this maize was sold for MKW 1,180,300 (USD 1,180) and the federation has created 'loan fund" to promote group businesses.

CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- We had supported nine tuition centers for the slow learning children up to June and after that managing two centers with 297 children.
- We have organized 13 children parliament with 725 children.
- During Famine, Tamil Sangam, Lilongwe supported the distribution of porridge to vulnerable children at our Lilongwe center and distributed clothes to children.
- The Lilongwe Pharmacy manager Mrs.Lizy supported the distribution of study materials and school fees to children in three children parliaments.
- Trained children in children parliament on their rights, value education, drawings and handcrafts.

- Tuition children were affected with skin rashes supported medicine by Pharmacy Manager Mrs.Lizy. 141 children get cured and benefited.

Outcomes

- *Six of our students who learned with vocational skill training started their business and supporting to their family.*
- *We conducted tuition classes and children parliament, this has created motivation, and the children who were not actively attending classes have greatly improved in attendance, learnings and developed skill.*
- *The distribution of food assistance and clothes in collaboration with Tamil Sangam has helped the out-of-school children continued to attend school.*
- *The provision of school fees and study materials to the three drop-out children had ensured the continuation of education.*

COLLEGE OUTREACH/EXTENSION PROGRAM:

Forty college students were given opportunity to learn about women SHGs and federation as part of the college extension program. The students' village visits were organized by the social development team. The students guided by our field staff interacted with SHG members to understand the SHG methodology used for promotion of women empowerment.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING AND VISIT OF MISSION DIRECTOR

- Eight national staff and three sisters were trained on Leadership, Micro-credit, SHG training and preparation of Organic fertilizer.
- DMI Mission Director, Sr.Vijili Dali visited Malawi and held discussions with the leadership team of the college and with the social development team. She visited project location and motivated the CD and the team to continue to realize the mission of DMI.

PROGRAM PHOTOS

Women Empowerment - Group Formation and Federation Meetings



Training Programs for Women



Maize distribution networking with seed -co



Federation Loan distribution (benefit out of maize seed)



Child Development (Tuition and Children Parliament)



School Dropouts (girls) back to school



Games for Children



STORIES OF CHANGE



Mrs. Margret Buleki is 37 years' old from Jonasi Village, she has 5 children. At first her husband did not have a regular way of getting income to support the family. For them to find food it was a challenge until she joined self-help groups organized by DMI sisters in 2014. Sisters were visiting the groups and motivated them to do group business. In 2015 after distributing their savings money, she received MK12,000 which she used to buy one pig. The pigs started multiplying and by selling the pigs she purchased a Farm at MK130,000, Land to build for rent houses and she also started brick laying business. And now she also bought goats after distributing their savings money. Now her life has changed because she is able to take loan from the group, eat every day, sending her children to school and she have learnt ways of saving and spending some amount of money for future use.

She expresses that she is able to do savings because of her piggery business which is going on well because of the motivations and encouragement of DMI.



SPECIAL EVENTS, VISITS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

On 23rd March we celebrated International Women's day under the theme of **"Women are effective Leaders and Change makers"**. The guest of Honor was Mrs. Christina Lupia the Chair Lady of Catholic Women Organization.



We celebrated **African Children's day** on 24 June, 2023 under the theme of Inclusion for Every Child. The guest of honor was Mrs. Ester Sagawa, The Deputy Mayor of Lilongwe City Assembly and other invitees. Nearly 450 children participated.

Girl child day celebration:

On 20th October, we celebrated girl child day at Chimwasongwe school with the Children parliament and the total participants were 150.

Independence Day: We celebrated this day on 6th July, 2023 at Fusani Primary school, 359 children participated.



On 16th we had celebrated **MOTHER'S DAY** at Kachimpi federation with 152 women.



COUNTRY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023

Details	Receipts (Malawi Kwacha)	Payments (MK)	Balances as of December 31, 2023
Opening balance as of January 1, 2023	155,661	155,661	0
Total Receipts from DMI & Payments from that fund	19362920	19170652	192,268
Total Receipts from in- country donation/fee/sale and other minor incomes	2,833,500	2,833,500	0
Total (MK)	22,352,081	22,159,813	192,268
Total (USD) @ 1000	22,352	22,160	192

CONCLUSION

“Great things happen when God mixes with us”

We bow our head before the Lord who guides, guards and direct us always.

DMI social development program of Malawi had strengthened the women’s SHG and these SHG are moving towards self-management of their functions. The federations also were strengthened by creation of loan fund and they are promoting members to start and sustain small businesses. Our next year’ plan includes – registration of the Vocational school by TEVETA and conduct quality vocational courses for those who have dropped out of school and have limited education, conducting field assessment and developing strategies to for adolescent girls to prevent ‘teen pregnancies’ and developing the implementation methodologies for the ‘college student’s outreach’ program. We thank all the leaders of DMI Global Mission and of St. John the Baptist university and pray for their continued support to the Malawi mission. Be blessed.

COUNTRY ANNUAL PLAN - 2024

A. Program & Financial Plan:					
Program Area/Plan details	No. of village /Panchayat	No. of direct participants	Annual Projected budget (Mkw)	Funds raised for this program (Mkw)	Balance funds to be raised for this program (Mkw)
1. Women Empowerment program 1) Promotion of SHG 2) Strengthening SHGs 3) Renewal of old Groups 4) Promotion of zone level federation 5) Promotion of District level federation	46	420 240 204 30 72	20,848,800	100,000	20,748,800
2. Children Development Program 1) New Children Parliament 2) Children parliament 3) Capacity building 4) Renewal of tuition centers 3. Promotion of Children Social Care 1) Promote personal hygiene 2) Promote value education 3) Leadership training 4) Promote extra-curricular activities	46	200 300 700 500 200 100 100 150	3,956,800	200,000	3756800
4. Capacity building trainings 1) Women Entrepreneurship trainings 2) SHG Formation trainings 3) Leadership trainings 4) Book keeping trainings	46	660 420 420 420	500,000	0	500,000

5. Agriculture					
1) Handmade fertilizer trainings		480			
2) Morden farming technologies trainings	46	60	600,000	0	600,000
3) Mushroom production		60			
6. Skills training					
1) Tailoring					
2) Cosmetology/Saloon		30	4,000,000	300,000	3,700,000
3) Soap making	46	20			
4) Handcraft		396			
5) Candle Making		60			
		120			
7. Awareness program					
1) Cancer awareness		50			
2) Health and hygiene awareness		108			
3) HIV/AIDS awareness	46	50	500,000	0	500,000
4) Malaria /TB/Cholera awareness		108			
5) Fistula awareness		40			
6) Ecology/Environment day		100			
8. Celebrations					
1) Women's day				100,000	500,000
2) Human Rights Day	46	500	600,000		
3) Children Day		200			
4) Independence Day		1,000			
5) Mothers' day		100			
6) Girl child day		50			
7) HIV/AIDs day		50		0	
		12			
9. Staff Capacity building trainings			600,000		600,000
10. College student's outreach/extension program		100	5,978,400	0	5,978,400
Total (Mkw)			37,584,000	700,000	36,884,000
Total (USD) @ 1500			25,056	467	24,589

Note: Exchange rate jumped from 1000 to 1500 for the plan

