



DMI MISSION MALAWI



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR



Dear all,

I am pleased to share our experiences and achievements in 2024. 2024 was arguably the most challenging year, as we had limited funds to support the communities. However, it was a great year for assessing, learning, and reflecting on our capacities through SWOT analysis and progressing our programs for empowering women and children.

I am proud of my team in Malawi. Their commitment and passion have been instrumental in transforming the target communities. We worked towards two main goals: 1. Empowering women through a community institution approach and 2. Educate and empower children through supplementary education. We have been dedicated to supporting and empowering the lives of the marginalized communities in Malawi.

In Malawi, Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty, with over 75% of families living in poverty being headed by women. Only 3 out of every 100 girls who start primary school in Malawi go on to secondary school, and only 1 of those 3 will go on to university. There is a lack of information and access to services for sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for young people.

We noted that the President of the Republic of Malawi, HE Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, outlines the priority areas of policy implementation for positive change in Malawi, including the pathways to deliver and support quality education for the country's young population.

Education will be a pivotal factor not only in enhancing learning systems but also in widening access to quality schooling for all children and tackling a consistently high drop-out rate. We will focus more on this in the upcoming years for an inclusively prosperous nation and the vital role of quality education within this.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to our well-wishers, donors, volunteers, and collaborating organizations for their continuous support.

I am grateful for the blessings, guidance, and support from the founder, Superior General, and Provincials.

Our dedication to fostering love for the poor and the needy remains unwavering to ensure the growth and quality of our programs in the coming year.

May God Bless You All.

Rev. Sr. Vijili Dali,

DMI Mission Director

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Dear All,

I am extremely happy to state that the federations loan which the DMI Mission Malawi initiated through the partnership with Seed Co Company has created additional loan fund access of more than Mk300,000 per group, per month for top up to their small businesses.

With support by the Mission Programme Director Dr Vengatesh the DMI Malawi Social work department established the integration of system with the college for effective implementation of the development activities in the targeted communities. Through this initiative DMI Malawi Mission has established Centre for Ecology for Sustainable Livelihoods for promotion of low cost technologies through demonstration garden.

Following the high costs of living rural Malawians cannot afford to buy chemical fertilizers for their farming for food security and livelihood. As an alternative solution DMI promoted SHG members to produce “Handmade Organic fertilizer”. This method helped 50 SHG members’ farmers to increase their crop production leading to improved household food security.

DMI organized Vocational training to youth members. These short-term courses on Tailoring, soap making and Catering helped the trainees to acquire the required skills and become self-employed.

By the grace of God with support of an individual donor Madam Theresa from Netherlands had donated 1,000 Euros for support the graduates for the access of tailoring machine through a revolving loan fund. Through this initiative 10 graduates accessed this tailoring machine loan and have started their tailoring businesses.

We also celebrated the International Women’s Day with participation of 361 women.

The DMI Malawi Mission team expresses thanks and appreciation to our Founder Father J.E Arul Raj, Superior General, Mission Director, Vice-Provincial and donors support that helped DMI Mission Malawi to effectively plan and implement the community-based programs.

Our special thanks to the leadership and managers of St. John the Baptist University 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 for their dedication and hard-work that has contributed to the results.

May God Bless You & Our Mission.

Rev. Sr. Sunitha, DMI

Country Director

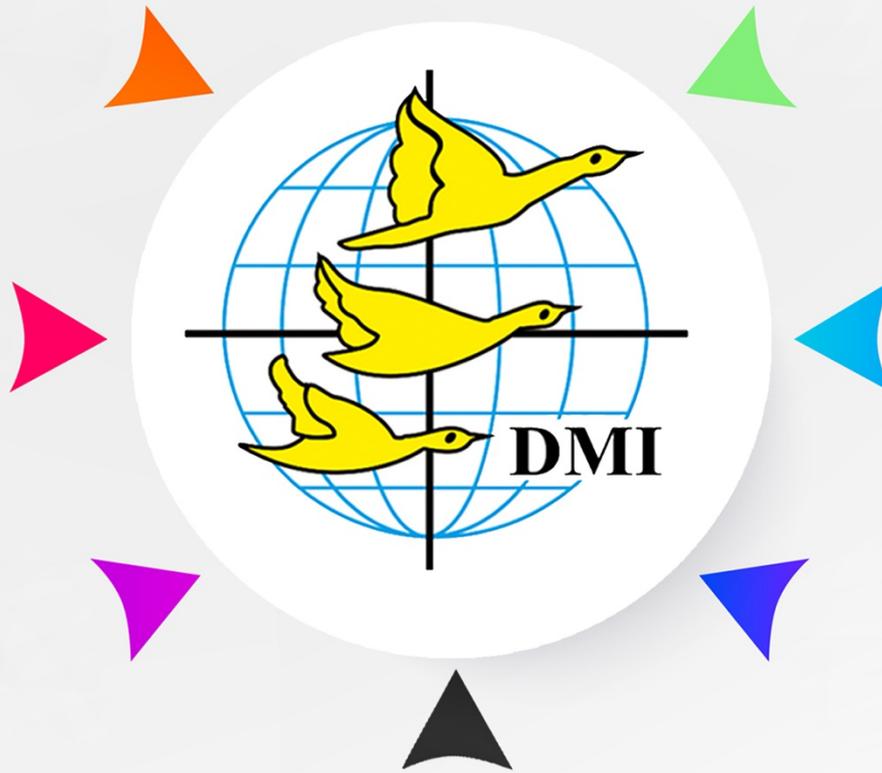
INTRODUCTION



In 2024, DMI Mission Malawi continued its dedicated efforts to uplift marginalized communities through impactful programs focused on Women Empowerment, Youth Development, and Child Development. Responding to the socio-economic challenges in Malawi, including poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, and limited educational opportunities, DMI implemented strategic initiatives to promote sustainable livelihoods, enhance educational access, and empower vulnerable groups. The mission's holistic approach not only aimed at economic growth but also fostered social transformation by empowering women, equipping youth with vocational skills, and nurturing responsible citizenship among children.

This Annual Report 2024 highlights the significant achievements and progress made through DMI's community-centered programs. From forming 63 Self-Help Groups benefiting 805 women to establishing a Tailoring Unit for youth employment and introducing Children's Parliaments to promote civic engagement, DMI Mission Malawi's initiatives have positively impacted lives across rural and underserved communities. By enhancing economic independence, leadership skills, and educational access, DMI continues to drive sustainable development, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future in Malawi

COUNTRY GOVERNANCE



- **Rev.Fr. J.E.Arulraj**
Chairman
- **Sr. Molli Pulimoottil**
Vice Chairman
- **Mr.Thomson Xavier Antony Ananth**
Secretary
- **Sr.Manuela Anotiniammal**
Member
- **Mr.Ignatius A Herman**
Member
- **Fr.Joseph Lourdu Reddy**
Member
- **Fr.Andrew Nkhata**
Member



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.



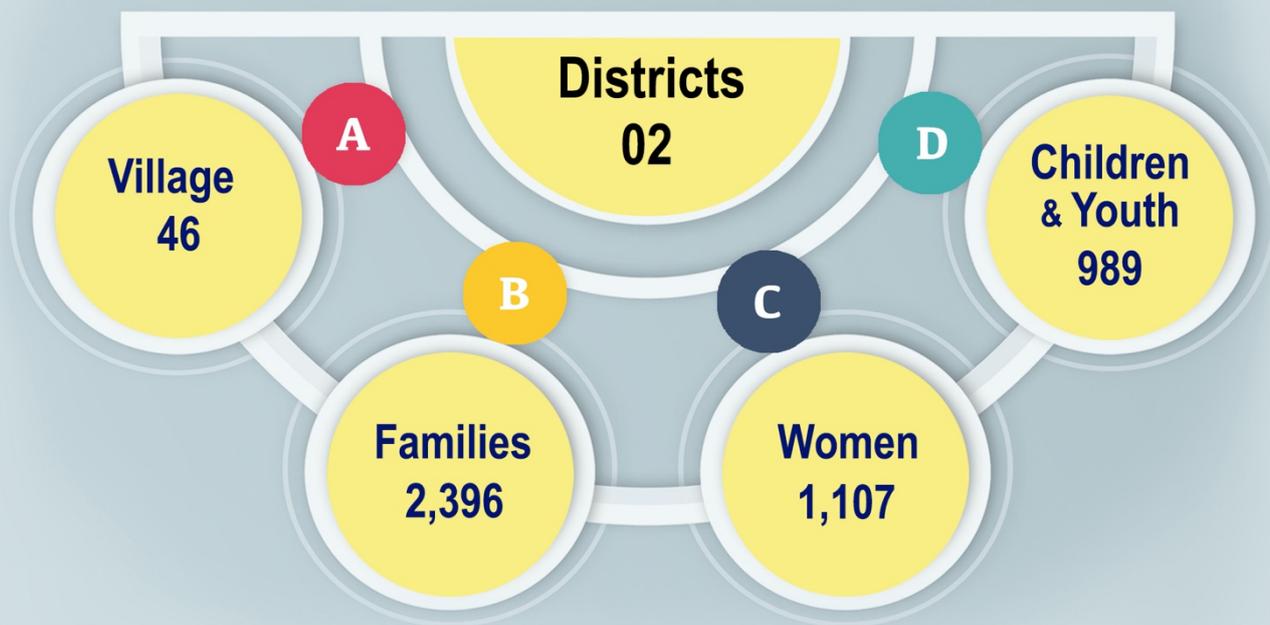
CORE VALUES



COUNTRY FACT SHEET

S. No	Particulars	Status as of December, 2023	Status as of December, 2024
A	Geographic Coverage		
1	Number of districts in which DMI programs are implemented	2	2
2	Number of Villages in which programs are implemented	Dowa – 24 Lilongwe - 22	Dowa - 24 Lilongwe - 22
3	Number of Program Zones in which programs are implemented	6	2
B	Participant coverage		
4	Number of members in SHGs/Federation	1,199	1,107
5	Number of members in Children Parliament in Schools	725	805
6	Number of women completed 6-month tailoring course at Lilongwe centre.	56	59
7	Number of college students trained on six technologies as part of the outreach/extension program	40	125
C	Key results under each program		
Women Empowerment program			
8	Savings amount of 63 SHGs in USD (1700 Mkw = 1 USD)	3,325	2,949
9	Funds utilized for loan by 63 SHGs in USD (@ 1700 Mkw = 1 USD)	6,426	7,463
10	Loan taken by SHGs from federation and started income generation activities (@ 1,700 Mkw = 1 USD)	1,180	12, 818
11	Number of members trained in micro-business skills	0	168
Tailoring Course for rural women			
12	Number of trained women accessed loan from 'DMI revolving fund' and started tailoring business	0	10
Children Parliament			
13	Number of children participated in Tuition classes and parliament sessions	725	805
Celebrations			
14	Number of women participated in the celebration of International Women's Day	300	361
D	Revenue Generation Program		
15	Established revolving loan fund to support trained women to start tailoring business	0	1,669

PROGRAM COVERAGE



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- 63 SHGs with membership of 1,107 have cumulatively saved Mk 4,541,000 (USD2,671).
- Formed and strengthened 63 SHGs with 805 women
- Trained 320 VSLA members in the four states on business management to improve their micro business activities as profitable ones.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- 43 children learned English and Maths under two tuition centers.
- Empowered 344 children through 15 mock parliaments



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- 59 youths trained in two trades (Tailoring and Beauty Arts)
- Currently 29 youths Learn Tailoring and Beauty Arts



PROGRAM IMPACTS AND STRATEGIES

The following are the key achievements of DMI Mission in Malawi in 2024.

Women Empowerment

- Formed and strengthened 63 SHGs with 805 women
- 63 SHGs members have cumulatively saved MK 4,541,000 (USD 2,671).
- Established a learning centre for Ecology and Sustainable Livelihood program
- Members from 51 SHGs were trained on organic fertilizer for agri-farming
- Integrated with the University and established a demonstration garden in the Lilongwe campus and currently running low-cost drip irrigation, vertical gardening organic manure processing bamboo plantation.
- Introduced the federation loan funds for starting and expanding micro business.
- SHG members availed loan from federation and started income generation
- Six (6) zones federation member trained in Leadership to manage federation activities such as meetings, functions, savings, attendance, participation etc.
- 190 SHG members trained micro-business skills

Youth Development

- Established a tailoring unit for youth employment and development
- 59 youths trained in two trades - Tailoring and Beauty Arts

Child Development

- 43 children learned English and Maths under two tuition centers.
- Conducted children parliament meetings for 344 children from 5 schools [15 Parliaments] to learn and practice the national parliament system to function their parliaments.

Our program strategies are

Since 2008, the DMI team has implemented various development activities to empower marginalized and underprivileged women and young people in Malawi. These programs focus on building the capacity of women and youth to enhance the livelihoods of their families both economically and socially. In 2018, the National Statistical Office estimated that 51.5% of Malawians were living in poverty, with 20.1% experiencing extreme poverty.

Major Programs

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Empowering women through various initiatives is the core mission of DMI in Malawi. Women in Malawi face numerous challenges, including gender inequality, low levels of education, and limited access to economic resources.

Women often have restricted access to credit and asset ownership. They also have limited access to agricultural technology and mechanization. Furthermore, women entrepreneurs earn 46% less than their male counterparts. Gender-based violence is prevalent, and early marriage and childbirth contribute to this issue. One in three girls in Malawi becomes a mother by age 18.

DMI's mission in Malawi guarantees women the right to empowerment and gender equality through:

Formation and Functioning of Self-Help Groups (SHGs): These platforms provided women with the opportunity to understand SHG concepts, engage in group savings, and manage internal loans. Additionally, the women enhance their collective actions to safeguard their rights and protect themselves and young girls from exploitation and abuse, leading to improved socio-economic status.

Capacity Building for Women: DMI trains women in leadership and skill development to help them start micro-businesses, thereby increasing their family income and improving their livelihoods. Skills taught include catering, tailoring, soap making, and creating handmade sanitizers, along with low-cost agricultural methods using drip irrigation and energy-efficient smokeless mud stoves.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Young people in Malawi face significant challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education and skills development.

DMI's mission in Malawi aims to create job opportunities for the youth by offering vocational skills for a dignified life.

Vocational Education for Youth: DMI provides vocational training courses, particularly in tailoring and catering, to tackle unemployment, improve employability, and create income-generating opportunities. This training helps young people acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for accessing decent work and breaking the cycle of exploitation and poverty.

Additional Skills for Youth: DMI also offers additional skills training in soap making and life skills, including problem-solving, communication, and empathy, which can be beneficial in various situations.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Children in Malawi face many challenges, including poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and social norms that violate their rights. 63% of children in Malawi live in poverty, and 70% of the population in rural areas live in poverty. 18% of school-age children are out of school, and many don't finish elementary school. Children have limited access to health and nutrition services. Harmful social norms and beliefs, such as gender discrimination, child marriage, and witchcraft persecution, violate children's rights.

To address the above and support the marginalized children in Malawi, DMI Mission in Malawi initiated two program for child development such as children parliaments and tuition center for improving children's academic performance.

Children Parliaments were formed in schools to bring children together to learn, represent their interests, and practice democracy. The program trained children on the concept of CP, the national governance structure, and the principles of democracy, civilization, and parliamentary processes. Key activities included:

Child rights education: Children learned about their rights and how to advocate for them.

Leadership training: Children developed leadership skills, preparing them to take on responsible roles within their communities.

Participation in decision-making: The program encouraged children to participate in decisions related to education and healthcare, giving them a voice in matters that affected their lives.

Through these initiatives, children were empowered to become responsible citizens, actively contributing to their communities and the nation.



PROGRAM ALBUM

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Women were training on VSLA Concept- Savings, Bookkeeping and Internal lending for starting microbusiness and raise family income and also handmade organic fertilizer and its benefits for vegetable and maize cultivation



Strengthened women federation through training for collective activation and promote women's rights

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN



VSLA members were trained and equipped with sustainable farming. Soap making and Agriculture technology skills



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The unemployed youths were equipped with tailoring and catering skills in Malawi



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD





Creating livelihood promotion activities for the marginalized women through ecology center in Malawi



STORIES OF CHANGE

Story-1 - The story of the Lumbadzi Federation- Empowering Women through Microfinance and Agriculture



In 2022, DMI Malawi partnered with Seed Co Company of Malawi, receiving a generous donation of 2,000 Kgs of maize seed. This support was distributed to 643 Self-Help Group (SHG) members, empowering them to improve their agricultural productivity. After the harvest, each member contributed 3 Kgs of maize to their federations, which was sold for MK 1,180,300. This income was used to establish the Federation Loan Fund, designed to support women's small businesses.

Lumbadzi Federation received an initial loan fund of MK 279,000, which grew to MK 933,900 through strategic investments. Inspired by this success, the members collectively contributed 12 bags of maize, generating an additional MK 481,500. This was reinvested into the loan fund, raising the total to an impressive MK 1,415,400. This initiative showcased the power of community solidarity and economic empowerment among women.

Reflecting on this journey, Madam Beatrice Sausande, Chairperson of Lumbadzi Federation, expressed heartfelt gratitude to DMI Malawi Mission. She emphasized how the loan fund enabled members to run small businesses, supporting their families' livelihoods. Their commitment and unity exemplify the self-help spirit, turning challenges into opportunities and inspiring hope within their community.

Story-2, Stitching a Better Future – Martha Fedson's Success Story



Martha Fedson, a 32-year-old mother of three from **Maliwa village** in **Lilongwe District**, struggled to support her family despite her skills in tailoring. After graduating from a **six-month tailoring course** at **DMI Mission Malawi** in 2017, she started a small tailoring business. However, due to limited capital, her business could not grow, and she struggled to meet her family's needs.

In August, Martha's fortunes changed when she received a **tailoring machine loan** from **DMI Mission Malawi**, made possible by the generosity of **Madam Therese**, an individual donor from the **Netherlands**. This initiative was designed to help graduates like Martha who lacked financial resources to purchase their own tailoring machines. With the additional machine, Martha expanded her business, opening her own shop and steadily growing her income.

Today, Martha earns a minimum of **MK 10,000 per day**, amounting to over **MK 284,000 per month**. With this income, she comfortably provides for her family's needs. Grateful for the opportunity, Martha shared, *"I thank DMI for offering me this unique opportunity."* Her story is a testament to how strategic support and skill development can empower women to transform their lives and uplift their communities.



Story-3, Harvesting Hope – The Impact of Handmade Organic Fertilizer in Malawi



In Malawi, where agriculture is the backbone of rural livelihoods, the rising cost of chemical fertilizers has severely impacted food security. To address this challenge, DMI Mission Malawi introduced an innovative solution by training women to produce handmade organic fertilizer using locally available resources such as manure, maize trash, and urine. This sustainable approach empowered the women to enhance soil fertility and improve crop yields without relying on expensive chemical inputs.

The impact was remarkable. Women who applied the handmade fertilizer to their maize fields witnessed high-quality harvests, often surpassing the yields of those who used chemical fertilizers. Mrs. Eliza Paulo, Chair of Kachimphi Federation, expressed her gratitude, stating, *"This initiative will transform our lives from high food insecurity to food security and the ability to meet other family needs."* The success of this program showcased the power of community-driven, sustainable agricultural practices.

Mrs. Mary Banda, a 35-year-old mother of two, shared her inspiring story of harvesting 66 bags (50 Kgs each) of maize. She reserved 30 bags for her family's consumption and sold the remaining 36 bags, earning MK 1,080,000. This income enabled her to support her children's education and meet other household needs. Grateful for the opportunity, she stated, *"We thank DMI Mission Malawi for offering us this rare opportunity."* Encouraged by these successes, DMI Mission Malawi continues to inspire more women to adopt this sustainable farming technology, fostering food security and economic empowerment in rural communities.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (unaudited)

Details	Receipts in Malawi kwacha	Payments in Malawi kwacha	Balances as of December 31, 2024
Opening balance as of January 1, 2024	192	192	0
Total Receipts from DMI & Payments from that fund	19,990,000	14,777,475	5,212,525
Total Receipts from all donors and payments from that fund	1,986,457	1,986,547	0
Total Receipts from in-country donation/fee/sale and other minor incomes	2,699,600	2,699,600	0
Total (local currency)	24,676,057	19,463,532	5,212,525
Total (USD) @ 1,700	14,515	11,449	3,066



ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2025

Program Area/ Plan details	No. of villages	No. of direct participants	Annual Projected budget (Mkw)	Funds raised for this program	Balance funds to be raised for this program
Women Empowerment program					
1. Promotion of new SHGs establishment	25	180	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
2. Strengthening existing SHGs	25	336			
3. Promotion of zone level federation	25	20			
SHGs Capacity Building					
1. Woman entrepreneurship/micro-business training	25	264	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
2. SHG Formation and Functioning trainings	25	288			
3. Leadership training	25	480			
Promotion of agriculture production skills					
1. Handmade organic Fertilizer making trainings	25	180	4,000,000	0	4,000,000
2. Promotion of drip irrigation technologies	25	96			
3. Promotion of Vertical gardening	25	96			
4. Promotion of compost organic manure	25	360			
Promotion of energy saving technologies					
1. Promote use of energy saving mud stoves	25	360	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
2. Promotion of bamboo and vetiver grass planting	25	60			
Vocational skills training					
1. Conduct Tailoring skills training	25	60	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
2. Facilitate Soap making skills training	25	120			
3. Facilitate Catering skills training	25	216			

Celebrations and events					
Facilitate Women'day celebration	25	300	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
College Students outreach/Extension Program					
Linking college students to communities	25	50	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Staff capacity building trainings					
1. Staff training in M & E System	25	7	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
2. Staff training in Communication skills	25	7			
	Total Budget		28,000,000	0	28,000,000
	Total Budget in USD (@ 1700 Mkw = 1 USD)		16,471	0	16,471



CONCLUSION

In 2024, DMI Mission Malawi made remarkable strides in empowering women, supporting youth development, and enhancing child education through its holistic approach. Key achievements included forming and strengthening 63 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with 805 women, launching an Ecology and Sustainable Livelihood Learning Centre, and promoting handmade organic fertilizers for sustainable agriculture. Additionally, vocational training for youth in tailoring and beauty arts created new employment opportunities, while children's parliaments and tuition centers enriched the educational experience for 344 children. These initiatives have significantly impacted the lives of marginalized communities, paving the way for social and economic transformation.

Looking ahead to 2025, DMI Mission Malawi is committed to deepening its impact through strategic programs and capacity-building initiatives. The Annual Plan for 2025 focuses on expanding SHGs, promoting women entrepreneurship, enhancing agricultural production skills, and providing vocational training. By integrating energy-saving technologies and fostering sustainable livelihoods, the mission aims to uplift rural communities economically and socially. The introduction of initiatives like the federation loan fund, tailoring machine revolving loan fund, and the integration system with St. John the Baptist University is expected to further enhance community self-reliance.





DMI MISSION- MALAWI

(The Daughters of Mary Immaculate & Collaborators)

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