



CAVWOC ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABYM	Adolescent Boys and Young Men
ADC	Area Development Committee
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CAVWOC	Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children
EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GVH	Group Village Head
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MSRHA	Malawi Sexual Reproductive Health Alliance
NGO GCN	Non-Governmental Organization Gender Coordination Network
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
SGBV/HP	Sexual Gender Based Violence/ Harmful Practices
SLF	Steven Lewis Foundation
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
T/A	Traditional Authority
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
VSL	Village Savings and Loans

BOARD CHAIRPERSON REMARKS



The Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC) is a social service organization dedicated to implementing programs and projects that contribute to the achievement of the Malawi Government's development agenda. I am pleased to present the annual report of our organization CAVWOC, highlighting the remarkable achievements and progress made during the year 2022. CAVWOC with the collective efforts and dedication of our team, partners, and beneficiaries in pursuing our mission of reducing Gender Based Violence (GBV) by protecting as well as supporting women and children who have been victimized, and preventing future occurrences of the same through the provision and reinforcement of long lasting solutions that deal with the causes of GBV.

Our efforts have yielded encouraging results, such as demand creation for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and services due to the increase of SRHR information in communities. Improved enrollment, retention, and completion of boys and girls in targeted primary and secondary schools. Improved representation of women and youth in community governance structures, including Area Development Committees (ADCs), Village Development Committees (VDCs), and Councils. Promoting the representation of women and youth in community governance structures. Through awareness campaigns and capacity building, we have made a significant increase in the number of women and youth assuming leadership roles. This inclusive approach to decision-making has strengthened accountability and fostered more representative governance structures.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team, committed partners, and the communities we serve. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your tireless efforts, passion, and unwavering belief in our mission.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to continuous improvement, innovation, and sustainability. We will build upon the momentum generated during the past year and seek new opportunities to expand our impact. Collaboration will remain a cornerstone of our approach as we work closely

with community structures and government stakeholders to ensure the long-term success of our projects.

In closing, I invite you to explore the detailed information contained in this annual report, which highlights the transformative power of our collective efforts. Together, let us continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities, as we strive for a better, more equitable future.

Thank you.

Rev. Fletcher Kaiya

Board Chairperson

CAVWOC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 2022 Annual Report proudly highlights the organization's achievements throughout the year, reflecting its unwavering commitment to its thematic areas and the positive impact it has created in the lives of women and children. Through dedication to excellence and a collaborative approach, CAVWOC continues to be a driving force in promoting the well-being and safety of vulnerable populations, ensuring access to vital services and information, and working towards building a more inclusive and equitable society.

In 2022, our operational focus revolved around establishing and strengthening community structures while closely monitoring their performance across projects aligned with CAVWOC's core thematic areas. Notably, the organization successfully implemented seven projects, including four projects under Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), one project focused on Education, and two projects in the Livelihoods sector. These initiatives aimed to empower and uplift vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth.

In the thematic area of Education, our efforts have been dedicated to improving access to quality education for children, with a particular focus on girls and marginalized groups. As a result of our interventions, we have contributed to increased school enrollment, reduced dropout rates, and the establishment of safe and inclusive learning environments. Furthermore, we have actively supported teacher training programs for community reading centers and the provision of educational materials, as well as implemented a bursary scheme for both primary and secondary schools in our impact areas.

Our commitment to the empowerment of women and youth remains a top priority, and we have achieved this through various initiatives, including skills training, entrepreneurship development, and income-generating activities. The outcomes have been remarkable, with improved economic self-sufficiency, increased household incomes, and the creation of sustainable livelihood options for beneficiaries.

In the Governance focus area, we have made significant strides in promoting the representation of women and youth in community governance structures. By conducting awareness raising and

capacity-building efforts, we have witnessed a substantial increase in the number of women and youth taking up leadership positions in local governing bodies. This has resulted in more inclusive decision-making processes and improved accountability, as diverse voices are now represented in shaping community policies and initiatives.

As we move forward, CAVWOC will continue to develop strategies that further our work and build upon the legacy we have established during the past two decades. Our commitment to ensuring the well-being and safety of women and children within our impact areas and facilitating access to information and services remains steadfast. Through collaboration with multiple stakeholders, government bodies, media, and both international and local NGOs, we aim to create an even more robust platform for engagement and understanding of the underlying factors affecting women and children in our communities. The passion for fostering empowerment, resilience, and improved opportunities for those in need will continue to guide our actions and impact positively in the years to come.

Kelton Bolokonya

The Executive Director

CAVWOC

ABOUT CAVWOC

Who We Are

The Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC) is a social service organization established in 1997. It is registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of Malawi since 1998 and affiliated with various reputable institutions including the Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA), the Non-Governmental Organizations Board (NGO Board) of Malawi, the Non-Governmental Organization Gender Coordination Network (NGOGCN), the Human Rights Consultative Committee (HRCC), and the Malawi Sexual Reproductive Health Alliance (MSRHA).

CAVWOC's primary focus is on reducing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) by providing protection and support to women and children who have been victimized. Additionally, we aim to prevent future occurrences of GBV by offering sustainable solutions that address the underlying causes. Our key thematic areas include Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Education, Livelihoods, and Governance. Through our work, we strive to contribute to a reduction in inequality, empowering women socially and economically while ensuring children are free from abuse and the influence of regressive cultural norms. Our projects are aligned with the development agenda of the Malawi Government, particularly Malawi 2063 and MIP-1, with a focus on Enabler 5: Human Capital Development and relevant policies to ensure long-term sustainability.

Vision

We envision a Malawi where all women and children have the opportunity to exercise their rights, live healthy lives, and enjoy social and economic empowerment. We strive for a society free from abuse and regressive cultural norms.

Mission

Our mission is to empower women and children who have been victimized based on their gender and age.

Core Beliefs

Safeguarding: We are committed to protecting the rights of children and vulnerable populations.

Rights-Based Approach: We promote equality and equity through a human rights framework.

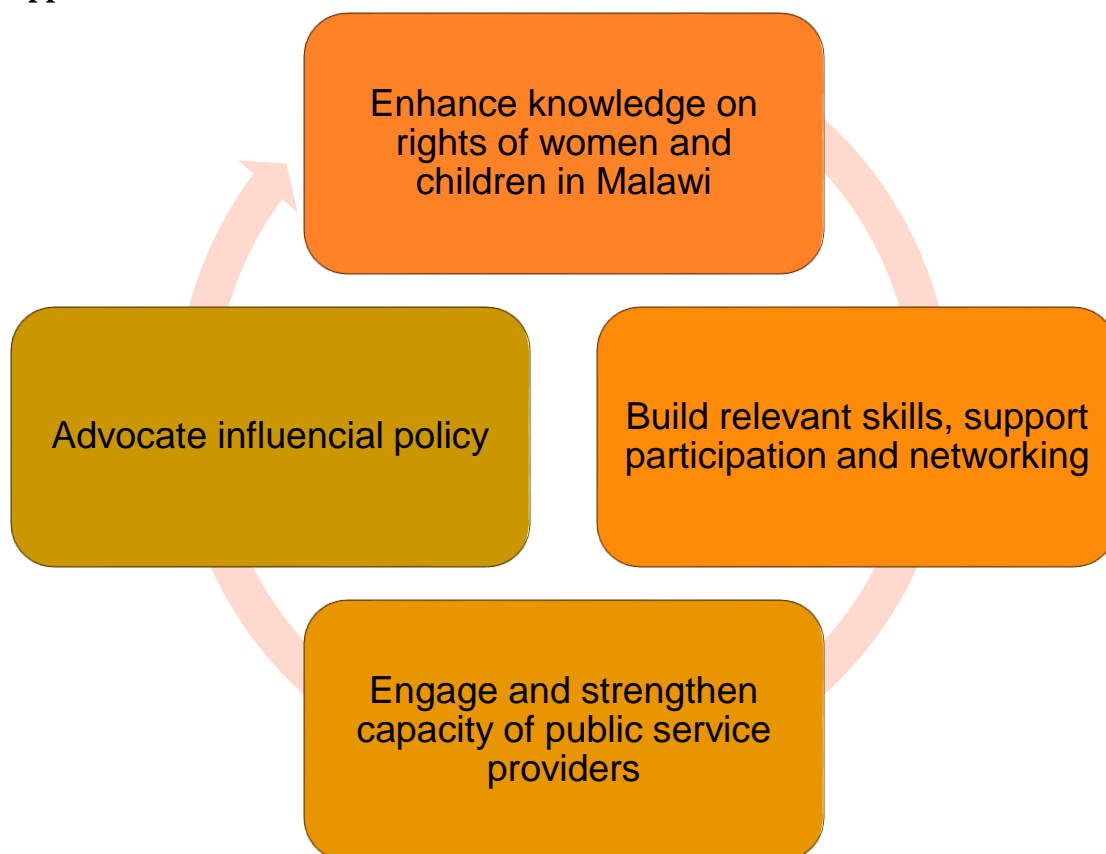
Inclusiveness: We embrace meaningful participation, respecting the diversity of gender, age, ethnicity, and religion, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Teamwork: We believe that by working together, we can achieve greater impact.

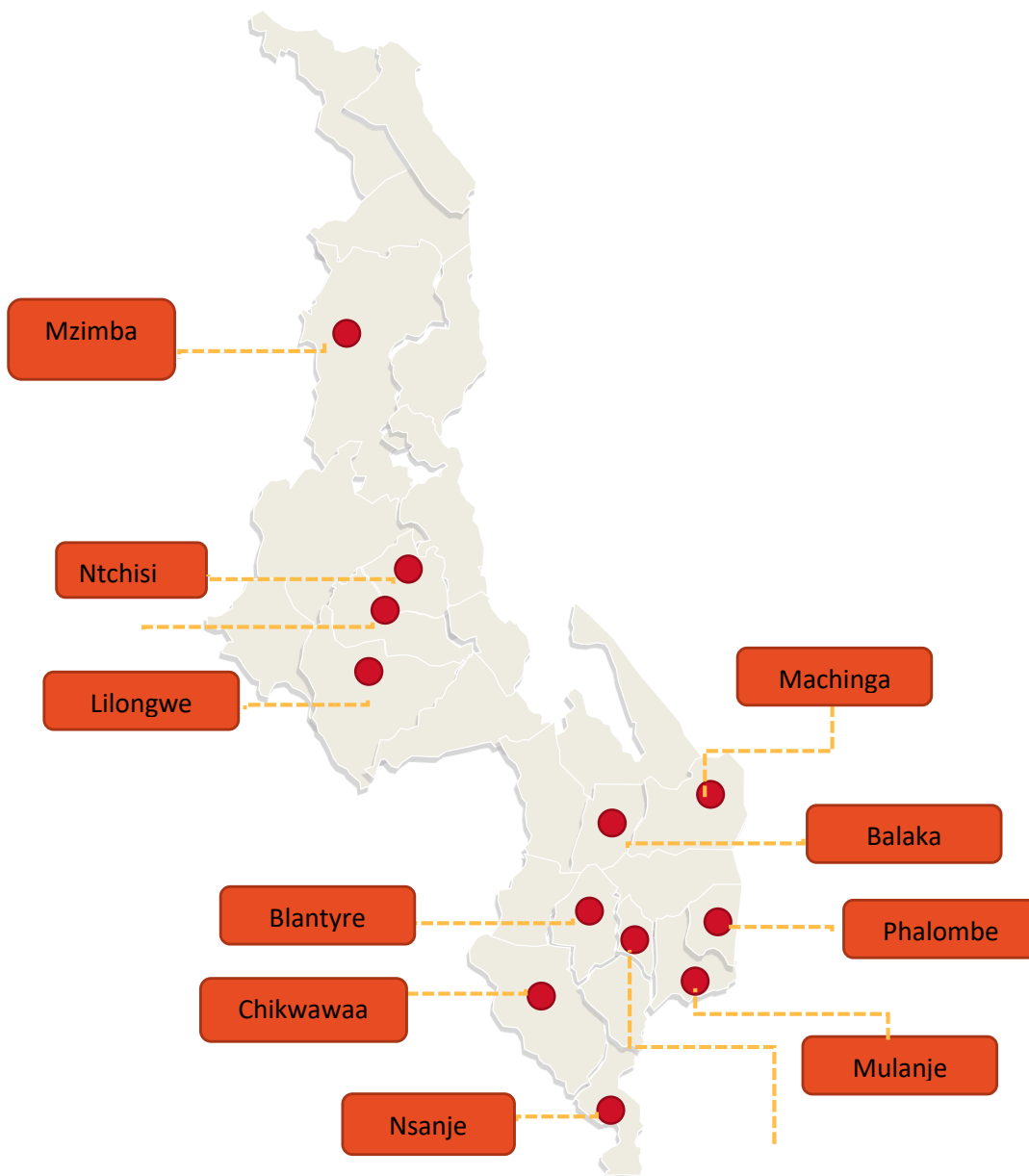
Holistic Approach: We recognize the interconnectedness of gender-based abuse with other sectors and take a comprehensive approach to address these issues.

Integrity: We uphold principles of trustworthiness, accountability, and transparency in all our endeavors.

Our Approach



Where we work



Governance and Financial Management

CAVWOC operates under a sound governance structure with a Board of Trustees consisting of experienced professionals in relevant fields. The Board convenes quarterly throughout the financial year to provide strategic guidance and oversight. The Executive Director serves as the head of the organization, responsible for the day-to-day operations and accountable to the Board.

To ensure transparency and accountability, CAVWOC undergoes an annual audit conducted by Graham Carr. The audit results are presented in the financial report section, providing a comprehensive overview of the organization's financial health. Additionally, CAVWOC diligently fulfills all internal revenue statutory obligations, including the timely submission of audited financial statements to donors and the NGO-Board.

Members of the Board



Rev. Fletcher Kaiya



Mrs. Emily Makuta



Mr. James Kumwenda



Mrs. Stella Twea



Mrs. Victoria Lungu



Mrs. Indira Sharma Surtee

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

The Organization programs and projects made progress in all four thematic areas: Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Education, Livelihoods, and Governance. In this section, we will highlight the achievements and immediate impact realized within each thematic area.

THEMATIC AREA 1: SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR)

TARGET OUTCOME: Improved knowledge and access to sexual reproductive health and rights and services among women and adolescents.

Capacity building initiatives targeting community gatekeepers, such as Traditional Authorities (T/As), traditional initiators, and

Community Action Groups (CAG), have played a crucial role in sharing knowledge on child rights and SRHR issues. These initiatives have facilitated the formulation of bylaws, the challenge of harmful cultural norms and practices, and the prevention of child abuse. Engaging local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in Thuchila (Mulanje) and Chiringa (Phalombe) has been instrumental in maintaining the growth of SRHR knowledge and fostering positive cultural practices. SRHR practitioners provided support during the training sessions. Including traditional initiators in the initiatives ensures that the knowledge reaches a larger population in the Lomwe belt, extending beyond the scope of the program for long-term sustainability.

Open days were organized to raise awareness and disseminate information about SRHR issues, creating an inclusive environment for accessing information and promoting community participation. A total of nine open days were conducted in the targeted areas during the reporting period, ensuring widespread messaging related to SRHR. Additionally, awareness-raising through Sports Bonanza events attracted young people and parents, specifically targeting adolescents aged between 10-18 years, including those with special needs. The purpose of the Sports Bonanza was to provide youth-friendly reproductive health services and information in hard-to-reach areas, as these adolescents are at higher risk of early pregnancy, STIs, HIV, and AIDS due to the lack of accessible and quality youth-friendly health services. The awareness initiatives helped both youth

with and without special needs access accurate information and high-quality reproductive health services.

The TFD sessions effectively disseminated positive SRHR content and messages, promoting the demand for SRHR services, highlighting the importance of contraceptive information and services for youth, emphasizing the role of parents in promoting SRHR and service uptake, advocating for education among teen mothers and other vulnerable adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Overall, the TFD sessions reached approximately 3964 youths, 4002 women, and 2785 men in T/A Kalembo, while T/A Amidu reached around 3389 youths, 2194 men, and 2269 women.

The extensive SRHR awareness efforts also led to the formation of new youth clubs and an increase in registered members. In Balaka, three additional youth clubs were established during the reporting period, bringing the total number of clubs to 56, compared to the initial 46 at the start of the project. The provision of bicycles to the TFD drama groups has significantly improved their mobility, allowing them to reach all communities in the two

RESULTS

1. Capacity building targeting community gatekeepers (T/As, traditional initiators, CAG):
 - Shared knowledge on child rights and SRHR issues.
 - Formulated bylaws, challenged harmful cultural norms, and prevented child abuse.
2. Engaging local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in Thuchila and Chiringa:
 - Maintained SRHR knowledge and fostered positive cultural practices.
 - SRHR practitioners provided support during training sessions.
3. SRHR awareness:
 - Reached approximately 3964 youths, 4002 women, and 2785 men in T/A Kalembo.
 - Reached around 3389 youths, 2194 men, and 2269 women in T/A Amidu.
 - Created demand of the SRHR services
4. Formation of new youth clubs and increased registered members in Balaka:
 - Three additional youth clubs established, totaling 56 clubs compared to the initial 46, where they get SRHR information.

Traditional Authorities in Balaka without constraints or challenges experienced in the previous period.

THEMATIC AREA 2: EDUCATION

TARGET OUTCOME:
Improved enrollment,
retention, and completion of
boys and girls in targeted
primary and secondary
schools

The Malawi Government recognizes the pivotal role of education in socio-economic development, as it impacts literacy, reproductive and maternal health behavior,

child health, and knowledge of HIV and AIDS. In 1994, the Free Primary Education (FPE) policy was implemented to enhance access to basic education, aiming to build an educated and skilled population to accelerate economic growth. While the FPE policy increased enrollment, it also led to challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, teachers, and learning materials, resulting in poor learner performance. Additionally, secondary education in Malawi is not free, making it a financial burden for families who struggle to afford school fees.

According to a UNICEF study in 2022, 2% of young adults aged 12-14 in Malawi have not completed basic education, with 60% being males and 40% females. Moreover, students often have to walk long distances to attend school, further affecting attendance and performance. To address these challenges and support the government's goal of education for all, CAVWOC has implemented several interventions in the education sector, including:

Provision of bursaries to 722 learners in secondary schools: 10 learners (5 girls and 5 boys) successfully completed their secondary education, and a new set of 10 learners (5 boys and 5 girls) are currently receiving support in Blantyre rural. In Balaka and Phalombe, a total of 712 learners (370 boys and 342 girls) have been supported through the bursary scheme. In Balaka, 546 students (296 boys and 250 girls) from 11 secondary schools. While in Phalombe, 166 learners (74 boys and 92 girls) from 6 secondary schools received bursaries. These learners were selected based on

government-approved assessment forms, and all of them come from economically disadvantaged families.

Provision of bicycles to secondary school learners: Many students in Malawi have to walk long distances to school, negatively impacting their attendance and performance. To alleviate this issue, CAVWOC distributed bicycles to students in need. For instance, 109 bicycles were distributed in Balaka district (70 girls and 39 boys), prioritizing learners who traveled the longest distances. In Phalombe, 92 students (56 girls and 36 boys) received bicycles, significantly reducing the physical strain of commuting to school and allowing them to arrive on time and dedicate more time to studying.

Support for selected learners with school uniforms: School uniforms play a crucial role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a sense of belonging among learners. CAVWOC provided school uniforms to 85 learners from 9 schools in Balaka district and has 80 uniforms ready for distribution to 8 schools in Phalombe. The uniforms were provided to vulnerable children and those who were readmitted to school, motivating them to work hard and concentrate on their studies.

Support for selected learners with learning materials: Although primary education is free in Malawi, many parents still struggle to afford basic school necessities such as learning materials. CAVWOC ensured that learners in both Balaka and Phalombe districts received learning materials, including four A5 hardcover books, two pens, and two pencils. This support has lightened the financial burden on parents and empowered learners to engage more effectively in their studies.

RESULTS

1. 722 secondary school learners, supported with bursary scheme.
2. Distributed bicycles to 201 students, which contributed to the improvement of attendance and performance.
3. Supported 165 learners with school uniforms and learning materials
4. Drilled water boreholes at two primary schools, providing clean water on-site.
5. Empowered girls with better access to water during menstruation.

In Malawi, CAVWOC and OXFAM tackled the critical issue of clean water scarcity in primary schools. Learners faced challenges accessing water within their school premises, relying on distant community boreholes. This led to long queues, missed classes, and hygiene issues, particularly affecting girls. Determined to make a difference, CAVWOC in Partnership with OXFAM drilled



Borehole at Monekera primary school in Balaka: Photo Credit by Rightwell Nyirenda

water boreholes at Monekera and Nachitukula Primary Schools, in Balaka and Phalombe respectively, liberating students from water scarcity challenges and transforming their educational opportunities. The installation of Afridev water pumps brought about a transformative change. Learners no longer had to undertake exhausting journeys for water. Clean water flowed within their school grounds, improving attendance, academic performance, and overall well-being. Girls, in particular, were empowered, as the availability of water on-site eliminated barriers to their education during menstruation. There is a positive ripple effect on the surrounding communities, reducing waterborne diseases and mitigating the risk of Gender-Based Violence for girls. The impact of access to clean water was evident in the voices of the beneficiaries. Students expressed their excitement and gratitude, emphasizing the life-changing benefits of the project. Teachers witnessed remarkable improvements in learners' hygiene, attendance, and academic performance. The success stories resonated throughout the community, inspiring hope and showcasing the transformative power of clean water access.

THEMATIC AREA 3: LIVELIHOODS

Target Outcome: Improved livelihoods of vulnerable populations, including women, girls, grandmothers, and people living with HIV and AIDS

In our pursuit of enhancing the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, particularly women, girls, grandmothers, and individuals living with HIV and AIDS, our organization has undertaken various initiatives as follows:

1. Vocational skills training for youth: We have partnered with the Stephanos Foundation to provide vocational training in tailoring to 10 youths aged between 18 to 24. This nine-month training program will conclude in September 2023, equipping the participants with valuable skills that will enhance their employability and income-generating potential.
2. Nutritional support for grandmothers affected by HIV and AIDS: Over the past six months, we have provided support to 25 grandmothers affected by HIV and AIDS. As part of our nutritional support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and grandmothers, each grandmother received 30 kg of soyabean flour, addressing their nutritional needs and overall well-being.
3. Village Savings and Loans (VSL) capacity building: Our organization is dedicated to increasing the social and economic empowerment of vulnerable populations. To achieve this, we have conducted capacity-building programs for over 500 Village Savings and Loans (VSL) Agents from Chiradzulu, Blantyre, Phalombe, and Balaka. These training sessions focused on equipping the agents with the necessary skills to effectively manage VSL groups, resulting in continuous improvements in the social and economic empowerment of the vulnerable population.
4. Success of VSL groups in Chiradzulu: During the reporting period, VSL groups in Chiradzulu, particularly in Traditional Authorities Nkalo and Kadewere, experienced significant progress. The number of groups increased by 82, with a total of 1,277 members, including 1,212 women and 65 men. Their savings are in shares and social fund. The social fund are some times been utilized to support girls who have been rescued from child marriages, providing them with learning materials

and school uniforms. This commendable initiative was proposed by the Nazombe mother groups in Phalombe.

5. Economic empowerment of people living with HIV/AIDS: In Blantyre, our organization has successfully empowered people living with HIV/AIDS through 27 VSL groups. This empowerment is evidenced by 87% of the members having built houses made of burnt bricks with iron sheet roofs, increased business capital, and the ability to afford essential needs such as food, clothing, and education for their children. Furthermore, these community groups have demonstrated self-belief and initiative by organizing festive events where they provide food and gifts to orphans and the less fortunate in their community.

6. Youth economic skills development in Balaka: In collaboration with the District Community Development Office (DCDO), we have conducted capacity-building programs for youth clubs in Balaka. This initiative aims to equip the youth with economic skills to effectively navigate economic challenges. As a result, 404 youth club members have initiated their own

businesses, including selling second-hand clothes, vending, carpentry, and farming. This has had a positive impact, as the youth are now able to afford over-the-counter contraceptives during commodity stockouts. Although the youth in our target areas of Traditional Authorities Kalembo

RESULTS

1. Vocational skills training for youth:

- 10 youths aged 18-24 completed tailoring training, enhancing employability.

2. Nutritional support for grandmothers affected by HIV and AIDS:

- 25 grandmothers received 30 kg soybean flour each, improving nutrition.

3. Village Savings and Loans (VSL) capacity building:

- 500+ VSL agents trained, improving social and economic empowerment.
- 82 new VSL groups formed, benefiting 1,277 members (1,212 women, 65 men), with their Social fund they are able to support girls rescued from child marriages. 27 VSL groups empowered people with HIV/AIDS in Blantyre. 87% members improved living conditions and started businesses.
- 404 youth initiated businesses (selling clothes, vending, carpentry, farming). And are able to afford essential items during commodity stock outs.

and Amidu have been affected by the rising cost of living, their increased economic capabilities have enabled them to overcome these hardships.

Overall, our organization remains committed to improving the livelihoods of vulnerable populations through skills training, nutritional support, and the promotion of social and economic empowerment. These endeavors aim to enhance the well-being and resilience of the communities we serve.

THEMATIC AREA 4: GOVERNANCE

Target Outcome: Improved representation of women and youth in community governance structures, including Area Development Committees (ADCs), Village Development Committees (VDCs), and Councils.

Good governance is essential for communities to achieve their goals, make informed decisions, manage risks, and ensure efficient processes, effective response to external factors, and financial accountability and sustainability. As an organization, our efforts have focused on

empowering women and youth to actively participate in governance structures and have a say in decision-making processes concerning women and youth-related issues. Over the past one year, the following changes have been observed as a result of raising awareness about the importance of women and youth involvement in community governance structures:

1. Increased awareness of the significance of women representatives and meaningful youth participation in local governing bodies: Mable Matiya, from Group Village Yowa in TA Nazombe, Phalombe, currently serves as the chairperson of the Yuwa Village Development Committee (VDC) for the term 2021-2025. Her election to this position followed several community sensitization meetings aimed at empowering community members to support women's leadership in local governing bodies such as the Area Development Committee (ADC) and VDC. Prior to 2017-2021, all executive positions were occupied by men, with women serving as committee members only. Negative perceptions and resistance toward women taking leadership roles contributed to male dominance, and even women themselves were hesitant to vote for their female counterparts. However, through awareness-raising meetings highlighting the importance of women's representation and decision-making, more women have willingly taken up leadership positions. For example, the Nazombe ADC now has 21 members, with 15 women in executive positions, surpassing the 50-50 goal for gender parity. Mable serves as the secretary at the ADC level and as the chairperson at the VDC level, where 7 out of 15 members are women, compared to the previous 5 women and 10 men. Challenges were initially encountered during the start of her tenure, with some male committee members showing resistance. However, through personal engagement and dialogue, their attitudes changed, leading to acceptance and support for women's

leadership. Mable remains committed to her role and is confident that women can effectively lead and bring positive change to the entire community.

2. Enhanced capacity of boys, girls, women, and community structures to demand accountability from public service providers: With support from the European Union (EU) and Comic Relief, our organization implemented a scorecard process involving women and girls, both with and without disabilities, from 14 Traditional Authorities (TAs) in seven districts namely, Phalombe, Lilongwe, Machinga, Mzimba, Nkhata- Bay, Ntchisi and Dowa. The primary objectives of implementing the scorecard at the community level is to empower the community members, structures to positively influence the quality, efficiency, and accountability of services in the fight against violence. Monitor the quality of services/projects. Generate benchmark performance criteria for resource allocation and budget decisions. Compare performance across facilities and districts. Establish direct feedback mechanisms between service providers and users. Build local capacity and strengthen citizen voice and community empowerment.

In 2022 A total of 4,977 individuals participated in the scorecard process, including 2,313 females, 634 males, 1,979 youth, and 51 persons with

RESULTS

1. Empowering Women and Youth in Community Governance:

- Increased women's representation in local governing bodies, breaking the tradition of male dominance. For instance Nazombe ADC achieved gender parity with 15 out of 21 members being women.

2. Empowering Communities to Demand Accountability:

- 24 interface meetings conducted to identify challenges and find solutions for improved services in the fight against violence.
- Advocacy efforts by the Women and Girls Movement led to significant improvements in health services and police response to GBV cases.
- Efforts to end child marriages and support education through counseling and reintegration of children into school settings.

3. Strong Collaborative Partnerships: Collaboration with various structures and stakeholders, including ADC Victim Support Unit, Child Protection Committee, Human Rights Defenders, Police, Chiefs, Members of Parliament, and more in driving these positive changes.

disabilities. Twenty-four interface meetings were conducted, these meetings aimed to bring together community members, service providers, and local government representatives to identify challenges in service utilization and provision, collaboratively generate solutions, and establish ongoing mechanisms for tracking and improving the effectiveness of these solutions. The interface meetings have had a positive impact on the quality, efficiency, and accountability of services provided at different levels in the fight against violence. CAVWOC has made significant impact in promoting gender equality and addressing gender-based violence in the targeted areas. Here are some of the significant impacts; The Women and Girls Movements Against GBV who were trained in scorecard fought tirelessly for the rights of women and girls, making significant impacts in various areas. In terms of health services, they advocated for improved maternity services and successfully addressed the issue of a clinical officer abusing a woman during childbirth. For example, in Phalombe, TA Nazombe, a woman was forced to give birth outside the health clinic by the clinical officer. After the movement intervened, the officer was transferred, and a new personnel who respects human rights was appointed to provide proper services. Additionally, they campaigned for better access to ambulance services and timely opening of health clinics. In TA Jenala, community members were initially required to pay for fuel to access ambulance services. However, due to the movement's advocacy, the fees were abolished, ensuring that women in need could access emergency medical transportation without financial barriers. Furthermore, health clinics used to open two hours late, causing inconvenience for women seeking timely healthcare. Through the movement's efforts, the opening hours were adjusted to match the scheduled time, allowing women to receive prompt medical attention. In the realm of police services, the movement petitioned the Member of Parliament (MP) to address the problem of delayed response to GBV cases due to lack of mobility. As a result, two bicycles were provided to the police unit in their area, enabling them to reach and respond to cases more efficiently. For instance, when a GBV incident was reported, the police officers could now arrive promptly at the scene, ensuring the safety and support of survivors. The movement's dedication to fighting for child protection is evident in their intervention to rescue children from forced labor in Mozambique. Working in collaboration with the community police forum, they identified and apprehended culprits involved in trafficking children for labor purposes. This action not only protected the children involved but also sent a strong message that child exploitation would not be tolerated in the community. The effectiveness of the movement's advocacy work is also reflected in their impact on the enforcement

of by-laws. For example, the harmful practice of "kulowa kufa" (death cleansing) has been completely ended as a result of their efforts. They raised awareness about the negative consequences of this practice and worked with community leaders and the police to ensure its eradication. Additionally, the coerced sexual intercourse known as "kutsuka mbiya" has been significantly reduced through their advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives. The movement, together with community leaders and the police, held community meetings to educate people about the harm caused by this practice and warned of legal consequences for those involved.

Work done by the Women and Girls Movement Against GBV has encompassed a wide range of initiatives and collaborations aimed at addressing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. They have actively engaged in reporting GBV cases to the police, thereby ensuring that survivors receive the necessary support and justice. Their efforts have also focused on ending child marriages through advocacy and counseling interventions. Additionally, they have provided counseling to parents on how to handle and prevent child abuse, while also offering guidance to adolescent girls and boys on the importance of education through counseling and go back to school campaigns.

In their commitment to education, the movement has successfully reintegrated numerous children into school settings. For example, in Mitekete GVH, they facilitated the return of 10 children to Mwanga School, and in GVH Mitamani, they brought back 10 children to school. They have also lobbied for school fees on behalf of learners who could not afford them, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder children's access to education. Furthermore, they have mentored girls who have been taken from child marriages, providing them with guidance and support.

The movements have been vocal in advocating for improved mobility and response capabilities of the police in addressing GBV cases. Their lobbying efforts resulted in the provision of bicycles and a water facility to the Police Unit in TA Jenala, enhancing their ability to respond swiftly to community cases. Moreover, they have conducted school visits to encourage and motivate learners to remain committed to their education, reducing the dropout rate. Through their entrepreneurial initiatives, such as savings and loans, they have supported go back to school learners by providing financial assistance.

In their fight against GBV, the Women and Girls Movements have collaborated with various structures and stakeholders, forming strong partnerships. They have worked closely with the Area

Development Committee (ADC) Victim Support Unit (VSU), Child Protection Committee, Human Rights Defenders, Male Champions, Mother Groups, Namalima Women, Rural Women Assembly, Police, Chiefs, Members of Parliament, Teachers, Community Police Forum, PTA (Parent-Teacher Association), School Management Committee, Hospital, HAS (Health Surveillance Assistant), and Social Welfare. These collaborations have been instrumental in amplifying their advocacy efforts, raising awareness, and fostering a coordinated response to GBV.



Nazombe ADC vice chairperson making her presentation during their meetings. Photo credit, Linda Alimoso (CAVWOC)

Through the multifaceted approach and strategic partnerships, the Women and Girls Movements Against GBV have made significant strides in addressing gender-based violence, promoting education, and empowering survivors. Their collective efforts have created a safer and more inclusive community, while also championing the rights of women and girls. Overall, the

Women and Girls Movement Against GBV has made a lasting impact on the lives of women, girls, and children in the community. Through their advocacy efforts, they have improved access to essential health services, enhanced police response to GBV cases, and contributed to the eradication of harmful cultural practices. These examples demonstrate their unwavering commitment to promoting gender equality, protecting human rights, and creating a safer and more equitable community for all. On leadership, Mable Matiya, from Group Village Yuwa in Traditional Authority Nazombe, Phalombe, is an exemplary leader who has made a significant impact not only on her own life but also on the entire community. As the chairperson of the Yuwa Village Development Committee (VDC), her tenure began in 2021 and will continue until 2025. This position came as a result of extensive community sensitization meetings that aimed to empower community members to embrace women's leadership in local governing bodies, such as the Area Development Committee (ADC) and VDC.

Prior to these awareness meetings, all executive positions in the ADC were occupied by men, while women served as committee members. Negative perceptions and societal norms that discouraged women from taking leadership roles had contributed to this imbalance. However, through the awareness campaigns on the importance of women's representation and decision-making, more women willingly stepped forward to occupy these positions. In the Nazombe ADC, out of the 21 members, 15 are women in executive positions, surpassing the 50-50 plan for equal participation among men and women, with a representation of 71%.

In the ADC, Mable serves as the secretary, while at the VDC level, she holds the position of chairperson. The VDC, which previously had 10 male members and 5 female members, now has 7 women and 8 men among its 15 members. This shift in the composition of the committee has not been without challenges. Mable reflects on the initial difficulties she faced, particularly with some men in the committee undermining her authority. She shares, “ *Poyamba zimavuta ndikaitanitsa nsonkhano wa komiti yanthuyi anthu samabwera ambiri makamaka azimbabo. Mpakana ndinachita kukayendera mmakomo mwawo keneko nditaitanitsanso nsonkhano wina onse anambwera ndipo tinakhalilana pansi ndi kuunikirana bwinobwino za udindo wathu ngati a komiti yoona za chitukuko womwe anthu anatikhulupirira kuti tikwalinitse ndi kuyamba kugwira ntchito. Komanso tinakambirana za ubwino omwe ulipo kwa zimayi pakutsogolera mudzi onse ndipo pamakhala kusinthanso. Ndinawapepha kuti andilole ndi kundithandizira kuti ndionetse kwa anthu kuti izi ndizotheka. Titapanga nsokhano umenewu panali kusinth kwakukulu komanso anavomemereza kuti azimayi ankhoza kukhala pa udindo ndithu. Pakadzakhala mwayi wina oyimiliranso ndidzautenga mwayi umenewu chifukwa ndilindichilimbikitso chakuti azimayi akhoza kuyendetsa zinthu mudzi onse kupindula ndipo ndimasophenya anga* ” “At first, it was challenging to convene committee meetings, as many members, especially men, did not show up. I had to visit them in their homes to understand the resistance they had towards women's leadership. However, after the physical follow-up, I called another meeting where we discussed and resolved the issues, and everyone was elected and entrusted with responsibilities which we had to fulfill. I urged each one of them to respond and resume their roles, and we reasoned together on the importance of women taking a lead and how it will make a difference. They began to support me, and with that meeting, there was a change and acceptance of women's leadership. If there will be another opportunity after my term, I will willingly grab it because I have the confidence that

women can be in leadership positions and produce good results that could benefit the entire community."

Mable's leadership journey and accomplishments symbolize the transformative power of empowering women and challenging gender norms. By actively promoting and supporting women's participation in decision-making, Mable has not only shattered stereotypes but also paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable community. Her success story serves as an inspiration to other women and demonstrates the positive impact that gender equality can have on community development and progress. Mable's experience highlights the importance of continuous efforts to promote gender equality and women's leadership at all levels. By empowering women and providing them with opportunities to contribute their skills and perspectives, we can build stronger communities and create a more inclusive society that benefits everyone. "Zofuna za amai ndi atsikana sizimawerengeredwa nthawi zonse kukamabwera chitukuko kudera kwathu, koma zofuna za azibambo ndi anyamata basi. Koma panopa poti ndine oimilira azimai ndi atsikana ndimaonetsetsa kuti ndikuyankhulapo pakafunikira kutero," "Women and girls' needs were often neglected in the past when it came to community development projects. Men and boys were the ones whose needs and wants were considered. But now, as I represent women and girls, I am able to voice their concerns when necessary," stated Matiya.

The absence of gender equality in leadership positions has far-reaching consequences, not only impeding progress in various spheres but also posing challenges to the community, national, and global economy. It is crucial to promote women's leadership to address these issues effectively.

CAVWOC recognizes the importance of empowering women and girls as a powerful catalyst for promoting women's leadership. Through their initiatives, they provide training and capacity-building programs that serve as a transformative process. These programs aim to equip women and girls with knowledge, techniques, and tools to develop essential skills and foster changes in attitudes and behaviors.

Mable Matiya's story is one of success and empowerment, showcasing the positive impact of the in promoting women's leadership and challenging gender norms. Her achievement serves as an inspiring example of how empowering women can lead to transformative outcomes and contribute to building a more inclusive and equitable society.

By investing in the development of women's leadership, the organization contributes to promoting gender equality and creating an environment where women have equal opportunities to assume leadership roles. This approach acknowledges that expanding women's leadership skills is a fundamental element in breaking down barriers and empowering women to lead in various domains, including community development and decision-making processes.

LESSONS LEARNED, INNOVATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Lessons Learned

1. Involving district officials has helped increase the organization's visibility at the district level and beyond. Despite a delayed start in implementation, the district still recognizes the Local Resource Person (LRP) at the district level.
2. Capacity building of the structures we work with has contributed to the sustainability of various interventions even in the absence of staff members. This was evident during the late disbursement of funds, where women forums continued to manage cases in different GVHs and at the TA level. The willingness and commitment of volunteers working on various projects demonstrate an element of sustainability even in the absence of funding.
3. Collaboration with community structures has yielded fruitful results and provides hope for sustaining the projects even when CAVWOC phases out.

Innovations Implemented in the year 2022

1. **Community Scorecard Process:** The implementation of the Community Scorecard process in collaboration with EU and Comic Relief demonstrated an innovative approach to monitoring and improving the quality, efficiency, and accountability of services related to gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and human rights. This participatory forum allowed for direct feedback between service providers and users, promoting transparency and empowering communities.
2. **Dialogue-Based Approach:** The organization utilized a dialogue-based approach in interface meetings, bringing together community members, service providers, and local government to identify challenges and generate solutions collaboratively. This innovative approach fostered mutual understanding, collective action, and ongoing improvement in service provision.
3. **Advocacy through Evidence-Based Data:** The organization recognized the power of evidence-based advocacy and utilized quarterly mini surveys to collect vital data. This

innovative approach enabled us to assess the short and mid-term impacts of projects, gather accurate information, and effectively advocate for policy changes and improved services.

4. **Youth Clubs as Information Hubs:** Youth clubs were established as innovative platforms for sharing accurate and trusted information among young individuals. These clubs served as spaces for knowledge exchange, peer support, and awareness raising on various topics relevant to youth development and empowerment.
5. **Collaborative Governance Structures:** In the Governance thematic area, the organization implemented innovative strategies to improve representation of women and youth in community governance structures. Through awareness raising and capacity building, they encouraged more women and youth to assume leadership roles, fostering inclusive decision-making and strengthening accountability.

These innovations demonstrated the organization's commitment to finding creative solutions to address community needs, improve service delivery, and empower marginalized groups. By adopting these innovative approaches, the organization was able to make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals and communities we serve.

Challenges

1. **Limited funding:**
 - **Solution:** Explore diversified funding sources, such as grants, corporate partnerships, crowd funding, individual donations. And fundraising. This will expand financial resources and enable reaching a wider target group.
2. **Impacts of natural disasters and outbreaks:**
 - **Solution:** Develop contingency plans and alternative meeting points to ensure uninterrupted program and projects implementation during emergencies. Strengthen partnerships with local health authorities to establish protocols for maintaining access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services during crises.
 - **Solution:** Mitigate the impact of fuel scarcity by exploring alternative energy sources and developing contingency plans. Incorporate climate resilience strategies into project planning to minimize the effects of heavy rains and flooding on implementation timelines.

3. Stockouts of commodities and access to SRH services:

- Solution: Advocate for consistent supply chain management and stock monitoring systems in health centers. Strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders to address stockouts and ensure the availability of essential commodities for SRH services.

4. Involvement of men and enforcement of penal code laws:

- Solution: Continue efforts to engage men through targeted awareness campaigns and community outreach programs. Advocate for the effective enforcement of penal code laws and collaborate with judicial offices to raise community awareness of criminal laws and their consequences.

PARTNERS

act:onaid



TO OUR PARTNERS WE SAY: THANK YOU

ANNUAL FINANCES

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	MWK 000	MWK 000
INCOME		
Project Funding Utilized	316,917	348,611
Administration Income	104,301	112,960
Other Income	14,641	4,141
Fair Value Adjustment	-	211
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	435,858	469,922
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure		
Project Expenditure	316,917	348,611
Administration expenses	127,231	107,739
Fair Value Adjustment	659	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	444,807	456,350
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit/Surplus for the year	(8,949)	9,572
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2022	2021
	MWK 000	MWK 000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets	2,939	2,741
Investment	1,035	1,694
Total non-current assets	<u>3,993</u>	<u>4,434</u>
Current assets		
Receivables	350	-
Cash and cash equivalents	112,873	52,547
Total assets	<u>117,216</u>	<u>56,981</u>
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Funds		
Capital fund	3,177	3,110
Designated funds	92,906	31,878
Accumulated funds	5,669	14,618
Total funds	<u>101,752</u>	<u>49,606</u>
Current liabilities		
Bank overdraft	12	
Payables	15,452	7,375
Total current liabilities	<u>15,464</u>	<u>7,375</u>
Total funds and liabilities	<u>117,216</u>	<u>56,981</u>