



# CHILDCARE REPORT



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## 1. Introduction

Childcare is a wing from Hope for Misanjo. It was established in 2016 with possibilities of FROMO. This part was established with a purpose of encourages youths from Misanjo community and surrounding villages to get education. It is saving a lot of children in our area since 2016. The core aim of this program is to uplift live of youths and encourage them to go back to school and get educated. Since start of this program childcare have been sponsoring over 100 needy students in Misanjo community and surrounding communities which is wonderful. All in all these students are benefit a lot. They receive items like bags, exercise books, school uniforms, school shoes, writing materials that is given at the beginning of each and every term. In fact, childcare program is acting as a savior since as a community sees a lot of benefits as follows; increase of enrolment in schools, eradication of early marriage, close gap between secondary and university as some university students are receiving loans from and program is encouraging gender equity as it makes sure there is balance between males and females.

In fact, the program is saving this community. However, there is a little challenge that childcare is facing. Some of the challenges are as follows; program is having less capacity to encompass as many as deserving needy students in this community since it is small organization but a lot of children are willing to go back to school with coming of childcare program, program is not able to support those students who are selected to the best school in Malawi and their vision end abruptly, lack of food support when hunger hit some of beneficiaries' homes.

Lastly, as a community is expecting a lot from this program as it sees some students getting MSCE paper while primary students are selected to better secondary school students as it encourages them to go back to school or work hard through provision of school necessities and some of them are getting chance of studying in various college or university since childcare is now providing them loan.

## 2. Benefit of childcare program to Misanjo community

There a lot of benefit that this community and other community are receiving from this program.

Some of them are as follows;

### I. There is increasing number of enrollments

Gift is one of inspiring students who is now gets a chance of continuing his studies at Mulanje college of nursing and midwife and he is pursuing three-year program. He has been suffering since his father divorced her mother while he was at primary school, class 3. So, it is very difficult for only mother to raise a bar. His sisters did not go far with school since they are no one to support them. Gift kalepa as a boy in this family devoted to do anything to assist his mother in



**Photo 1: Gift Kalepa**

supporting a family. For instance, sometime he was selling mangoes and samosa as you may see pictures below. However, he tried his best to work hard until he got a chance of study at Mulanje mission college of nursing and midwife. Even he got chance to study at this school but there is no one to support him until last year when I met him. So now he is enjoying his studies at Mulanje Mission college. He is intelligent student.



**Photo 2 : Gift kalepa selling mangoes and Samusa**

## **II. Community development**

Childcare as a program is not only support a student with only school necessities but sometimes goes as far as it is possible. As I am writing Kalepa's family is receiving a house which is under



**Photo 3 : The place showing front side and inside where Gift Kalepa was sleeping**

construction. As you may see photos below, this is something like a house that Gift Kalepa used to sleep. These photos itself can tell what challenges this family was facing. So, through childcare program, this family is receiving new house which is under construction. This is so amazing. You may see photos below which shows new house which is underway.



Photo 4 : New house for Kalepa's is underway

### **III. Students are getting school support**

The main aim of this program is to provide students with basic needs. The deserving needy students are benefit much from this program. Through this program, students are receiving groceries like soap, lotions, exercise books, writing material, calculators, school bags, clothes and pocket money. Among other things, for secondary student are receiving schools' fees on top of all these basic needs.

This is true definition of development since the lost hope has brought back to these students. These students are living happily life and they usually have enough time to concentrate on their studies hence there is positive improvement in their grades.



**Photo 5: Misonzi Gombwa to the left and Breandah Nkanda to the right carrying school groceries**

#### **IV. Defending rights of girl child**

Childcare is on front line to defend rights of females through providing basic needs. A lot of females are exposed to early marriages or sexual relationship in order to get school necessities. Most of the females' students are connected to blessers in order to get assisted. This is very worse since these young females end up contracting sexual transmitted diseases and get unexpected pregnant. This all happens because these young girls are stranded. So, childcare comes in to cover this gap as of now, these young ladies are given chances to continue with their studies. This brings hope to our community since early marriages problem is now reduced. Girl education in Malawi has got a huge impact since they are hard workers. Most of time they spend their time collecting firewood, cooking, cleaning, just to mention a few activities. So, in processing of defending rights of girl child will boost community development. In fact, you are blessing to our community since a lot of students have access to education with enough school necessities unlike in the past.



Photo 6 : Sungeni Kesten and Desire Maganga receiving their groceries



Photo 7 : Ireen Nkanda (Left) and Chrissy Choma receiving their groceries



### 3. Childcare achievements

Since 2016 there are number of products that childcare has achieved so far. One of achievements is that Wilson is now a graduate from Malawi university of science and Technology. This has been possible because of Hubert, Marion and George's support through FROMO. Wilson started to receive support while she was at primary school and he has been receiving several supports, one after another until now he is a graduate from Malawi university.



**Photo 8: Wilson in 2008(Left) carrying sugarcane and Wilson in 2021 during graduation**

There a lot of achievements that Childcare has so far have. Most of students that have been supported since 2016 have got MSCE certificate and other have got chance to study at different universities and colleges in Malawi. For instance, Alex Daniel got chance to study at Polytechnic Malawi now is called Malawi University of Business and Applied Science (MUBAS). However due to limited places that our university has cannot manage to accommodate all MSCE holder but a lot of students that have been supported have got MSCE certificates. In addition to this childcare has managed to reduce early marriages and fight for girl child right just to mention a few.

## **4. Challenges**

There are few challenges we are encounter. Some of challenges as childcare program is facing are as follows;

### **a. Fees /prices fluctuation**

This is yearly challenges childcare is facing frequently. In fact, school fees are not usually stable. Sometime it changes within a year while we have already submitted our budgets. Apart from fees, prices of items we used to buy for our students used to fluctuate as well. The thing is that we cannot predict such changes as results this leaves us in panic situation. This year everything has gone up, for instances food prices, groceries, in short most of items' prices have gone up. So, you may be surprised that there will be changes in prices of school necessities we always offering to our needy students. We are also expecting the changes of school fees because of changes of most items' prices. This is caused by fluctuation of our currency.

### **b. Covid-19 pandemic**

As we all know that this is global pandemic and even Malawi is also struggling with this pandemic. This pandemic has disturbed a lot of things. For instance, our academic calendar is not trending like in the past. Secondary and primary academic calendar used to start from August and end in July. But this year, it's totally different since once a wave hit a country there was declaration of state of emergencies and all schools were closed and students has to wait for sometimes. This has happened twice. Now the problem is that some donors withdrawn their support thinking that we are not doing anything and maybe they thought like we are sending information very late. But this was not a case and I usually sent information in time, once I received that information. So most worrying thing is that childcare has lost some donors thinking like we are unwilling to send them information they were looking for.

### **c. Food insecurity**

With covid-19 pandemic, severity of poverty is now very worse and people will need support in other way round. As we are experience as a country, the prices of everything have gone up and this has ended up by leaving a lot of parents stranded and cannot manage to buy a bag of maize. This has to link to loss of small piece of work and small business they used to run. Since a lot of people loose job and their piece of work so it is difficult to get money. So, if possible, we may

need to provide our need students with a bag of maize so they need to have porridge in the morning as their breakfast. Even though some sleep with empty stomach sometimes but only in the morning they need to have something like porridge to be strong in readiness for classes.

#### **d. Long last items**

There is issue with long last item. Long last item like school shoe, school bag and school uniforms are given to newly selected students. Those students that are have just got a chance to be supported by childcare. In other words, it is their first time to receive support from FROMO through childcare. So, the problem is that childcare gives a student one uniform without spare ones and once childcare gives these long last items, it means for their entire study. For instance, if childcare has provided a school uniform or school shoes to class one student then this will mean for his or her entire 8 years period. But the fact is that this item cannot last for 8 years. So, our point is that at least FROMO or our donors need to consider these students yearly or after two years. We have some cases like some students were sent back because they wore worn out school uniform and parents had to struggle to provide one which is difficult for them as such, we end up receiving a report that a student has not participate in final exams because of this problem. The end result is that a student ends up losing his or her support.

#### **e. School resources**

In this case, what we mean is about school books. In remote area like Misanjo community, we have an issue to do with laboratories and libraries. So, the main problem is library so far. Father George can you imagine where government library is located? It's a long distance and it is found at BOMA area. Hubert as well can have a picture; government library is found near Hapuwani village lodge in Mulanje. And you may see that it's a long distance from Misanjo community and a student cannot manage to walk from Misanjo to where there is library. My plea is that, if possible, at one time please may you provide us with a library where our students will able to get resources. This will also improve students' performances and their chances to go to university or to be selected to secondary schools will be high. If possible, in future please you may consider us about library.

## 5. Recommendation

Looking at some challenges Childcare is facing, there are few suggestions as follows;

- Childcare budget that is used to be submitted at the beginning of year is not guarantee that costs will be static and most of times we face various changes and my request is that you may understand us in such situation as usual.
- Situation like covid-19 pandemic, there is need to understand the changes of academic calendar. As we have experienced this academic year, we have lost some donors since they expect to get information in line with old academic calendars. Most of time, it is not childcare management delays but sometimes we need to get information from academic official which is always right one unlike guessing. So, there is need to accept such unexpected situation childcare sometimes. For instance, to get PLSCE or MSCE results depend on our government speed.
- For food problems, you may recommend us to provide each student one bag especially those that are non-residents students.
- Some challenge is that some of our needy students cannot manage to write good letter on their own so it is very difficult for them to write their life story and achievement letters. So, there is need some consideration by allowing them to submit school progressive report and thank you letter only. These includes students from class 1 to class 5 or 6.
- There is problem childcare is facing about long-lasting items like school uniforms, school shoes and school bag. These items are given only once for entire study of students. So, there is need to provide them with these items once again after a year or two years. Imagine, school uniform and school shoes are main ones because they are washed and worn everyday so it's easy to worn out unlike school bags. These everyday things cannot take a student for his or her entire studies. Imagine student from class one, she or he has 7 years ahead so it is not possible that these items can last for 7-8 years. Your consideration will be highly appreciated.
- There is need to increase university loans fund so that a lot of students should access loans.

## 6. Conclusion

Lastly, this program is best for eradication of poverty. For instance, without this program and without you being there for us, student like Wilson could not be able to get his degree and some student like, Ester Kudzinja, Jimmy Elias, Loveness Benfort, Felesta Alufeyo just to mention a few could not be able to get MSCE certificates on their own. And some students like Leonard Mission and Wilson Kawelama have finished their university studies through this program while Gift Kalepa and Apatsa Mulira are currently receiving loan to continue their studies at Mulanje Mission college of nursing and midwives. This program is really blessing to us and have bring a lot of positive changes since through this program, a girl child is able to go back to school without any hinderance. There is reduction in early marriages in Misanjo community and other surrounding communities since female students are accessing school support very easily. This program is also bringing unique development as it gives new house to extremely stranded families. For instance, since the beginning of this program, about five families have been provided with new house and house maintenance. Some of family that have received these projects are as follows; Funali family, Khanenda Family, Mpangi Family and Mrs. Boni. So, this is crucial development people from Misanjo community and other surrounding area are receiving as such Childcare always ensure each and every support childcare is receiving should not be thrown out of window.

So, we are grateful for all support you are rendering to us and we always pray for you to stay blessed. You are shining examples to us. In fact, Misanjo community is benefiting a lot from this support.

## 7. Appendix



Photo 1: Mr. Gomiwa, Amos Chikaonda and Shop guard are loading groceries in



Photo 2: MR Gomiwa take a stage advising needy students to work hard not to throw precious resources out of window



Photo 3: Taonga Banda carrying her groceries



Photo 3: Trifoniya Dinigu carrying her groceries





Photo 4: Chikondi Funali is carrying his groceries



Photo 5: Blessing (Left) and Breander (Right) carrying their groceries



Photo 6 : Mrs. Jack is helping Princess Kaphiri in carrying her groceries