

Tools and Training for Livelihood in Malawi 2019–2020

BOOK 7



Mary lam

A project run by The Global Concerns Trust and funded by The Scottish Government



The Global Concerns Trust is a Scottish based charity that aims to reduce poverty and empower vulnerable people through partnering organisations that implement sustainable grassroots development projects.

We currently support projects in India, Kenya and Malawi.

We have worked with our partners in Malawi for 12 years to provide vocational training and start up tools to hundreds of adults with disabilities, helping them to start up small businesses and generate an income to support themselves and their families.

In 2018 we secured further funding from The Scottish Government to continue our training programs in Malawi until 2023.

This booklet details The Global Concerns Trust's current projects in Malawi 2019 – 2020, describing the training that is happening, the work in Scotland and Malawi that make it possible and the impact of the training so far on graduate trainees.

We have produced a film about this project, which can be viewed on our website:

www.globalconcernstrust.org.uk

Registered Charity: SC025640



THE PROJECT

50% of Malawi's 15 million citizens live below the poverty line.

Poverty is especially high in rural areas, where there is minimal infrastructure or access to services.

It is estimated that of the world's poorest people, those who lack access to basic necessities such as food, clean water, clothing and shelter, 1 in 5 is a person with disabilities.

People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty due to multiple barriers to accessing education, health care and employment.

In addition, people with disabilities experience further challenges such as lack of disability aids and medical treatment, stigma and prejudice, higher chances of being subjected to violence, isolation and disempowerment.

People with disabilities have been widely excluded from many development processes.

Women and girls with disabilities live with double discrimination due to existing gender inequalities. For many disabled people, supporting themselves and their families is extremely hard and many are completely dependent on their extended families or are forced to beg to survive.

This project aims to reduce poverty in Malawi by empowering some of these most vulnerable people, equipping them with the skills and tools needed to be self sufficient and earn a living.



Tools and sewing machines are donated in Scotland and Northern Ireland and are refurbished by volunteers at the Scottish Tools for Self Reliance workshops in Edinburgh, Milltown and Aberdeen, The Ecology Centre and the Tools for Solidarity workshops in Northern Ireland.

They are then shipped to Malawi and are used by our partners **MACOHA** and **KODO**, to provide vocational training in carpentry, tailoring and cane furniture making in Nkhotakota, Salima and Ntcheu districts.



Our trainees receive 6 – 12 months vocational training, business training, AIDS prevention, reproductive health and gender awareness training. When they have completed training, they receive the tools and machines they need to start their business.



All trainees also undergo organic manure training and are given a solar panel. Trainees receive on-going support and are visited by project workers at home to help them with the early stages of setting up businesses.

MACOHA

Our two partners in Malawi are
MACOHA (The Malawi Council for
the Handicapped) and KODO.



MACOHA (Malawi Council for the Handicapped) is a national organisation established by the Government of Malawi, to implement policies and strategies on disability. MACOHA are at the forefront of work to help men and women with disabilities to be more independent, self-sufficient and recognised as equals within Malawian society. Their work includes supporting mainstream teachers to effectively include children with disabilities,

providing access to cataract operations, orthopaedic clinics, ear health services and HIV/AIDS awareness training and supporting and offering training to mothers of children with disabilities. MACOHA recognise that livelihood training is an essential part of supporting adults with disabilities in Malawi to be self sufficient. They have 2 vocational training centres in Lilongwe and Blantyre but did not previously have the capacity to provide vocational training to adults

living in the rural areas.

We started our partnership with them in 2007 by equipping their vocational training centres in the cities, Lilongwe and Blantyre, with much needed tools and sewing machines. We then piloted with MACOHA the implementation of a vocational training program for adults with disabilities in rural districts, finding local craftsmen to train people in carpentry and tailoring.

Trainees are attached in groups of 4 or 5

to a local carpenter, tailor or cane furniture maker and train with them as apprentices for 6 – 12 months. They are able to learn how to run all aspects of an active business, as well as the necessary technical skills.

We have since expanded this model of vocational training to rural Nkhotakota and Ntcheu districts.



KODO

KODO is a grass roots organisation based in Salima, that was founded by George Chimpiko, who himself has physical disabilities and who has dedicated himself to helping other people with disabilities in Malawi.

KODO provides training courses in tailoring and cane furniture making to adults with disabilities in Salima district. They have trained over 200 adults with disabilities through this program (55% of which are women) and supported them to start up businesses.

Trainees live together at **KODO** for the duration of their training and the sense of community and fellowship that develops between the trainees is palpable. For many of them, this will be the first time that they will have had the opportunity to leave their homes and meet other people with disabilities. The importance of these friendships, together with an increased sense of confidence and self worth that comes from the training, cannot be underestimated.

All trainees also learn how to make organic manure, a skill they will pass on to their communities once they get home. This will help the fertility of the soil, reduce soil erosion and increase agricultural

yields, as well as saving people the cost of having to buy chemical fertilizer. **KODO** also work with other partners to provide mobility aids and sustainable agriculture training to people with disabilities.

As well as the vocational training and tools, all graduates are given solar powered home energy systems. Graduates are able to use this technology to provide light for their families, increase their business output and generate further income by providing mobile phone charging services.

Skill sharing workshops and post training support

Trainees receive on-going support and are visited by project workers at home to help them with the early stages of setting up their businesses. Through this continued contact with trainees, we are able to measure the long-term impact of training upon their lives, as well as continuing to assist them in any ways we can.

Graduates come back together to attend skill sharing workshops, where they share their experiences and challenges and give each other support and advice. The workshops are designed to support graduates to continue to work on product and skill development and marketing strategies that will help them to grow their businesses.

Graduate trainees use these workshops to share their individual progress and help each other to continue to develop their products and business strategies. This continued contact with fellow trainees and project workers helps graduates motivate, inspire and support each other.

We offer training to people with all types of disabilities including hearing and sight impairments, epilepsy, learning difficulties and physical disabilities. This year we are working towards including people with mental health problems and are currently providing training to our trainers and field officers so that we will be equipped to do so next year.

At least 50% of our trainees are women.



Doris John



Skill sharing



Alice Miyow, cane furniture graduate

Disability Mainstream Training

We have also worked with MACOHA to run disability mainstream training in Malawi, to help other development organisations be more inclusive when designing and implementing their programs.

People with disabilities have been excluded from development processes for too long and MACOHA shared their extensive expertise to help other organisations recognize and minimize the barriers that exclude people. Over 100 organisations, from the health, education and governance sectors attended the training and have set themselves targets to be more inclusive.



JEFTON MASENGERA

Jefton is married and has 6 children. He has a foot disability. Jefton used to farm, making only 4000mk per month (£4). He took part in the cane furniture training in Nkhotakota and has now been running his business for just over a year. Jefton now makes 40,000mk per month, a 1000% increase. He has taught two brothers and his son cane furniture making and sells 2 sets of furniture a month. The whole family now have enough food and he has been able to buy ducks, farm labour and inputs and kitchen utensils. He is saving money to buy more tools, with which he hopes to expand his business and employ others.



KEVIN MARSHALL

Kevin is a volunteer at the tools workshop in Garvald Edinburgh, where he has been working since 2015. Kevin is very interested in lorries (especially Scania ones) and refurbishing tools, both in and outside of work. He also enjoys fixing up cars and vans with his father, who is a mechanic.

Kevin loves working on the larger, more complex tools that are donated to the workshop, such as engineering vices, bolt cutters and sledge hammers. "I enjoy fixing them up because each one is different". He likes to completely take these tools apart, clean them thoroughly and put them back together. Kevin enjoys always having something new to learn and likes how the workshop



is organised. Kevin says he enjoys doing the work in the workshop because it helps people who need the tools more than we do. He also likes the feeling of giving something back. He says he hopes the people who receive the tools he has worked on, appreciate his effort to fix them up and he hopes they make good use of them.

DOROTHY BUA

Dorothy is 45 years old and lives with her 5 children in a village outside Ntcheu. She is an amputee. Dorothy used to sell beans and made only 10,000mk (£10) per month. She took part in the cane furniture training, finishing in November 2018. She now has a cane furniture business and is selling at least one set (2 double chairs, 1 single chair and a table) a week, making a profit of 120,000mk (£120) per month. She taught one of her sons, who helps her with the business. Dorothy has been able to buy food, a phone, maize and iron sheets for her house, something she said was previously only a dream. This year she plans to buy pigs.



ALFRED JUMBE

Alfred Jumbe is 27 years old and lives with his parents and siblings in Chinkhokwe village, Dowa district. He has a foot disability. He used to do piece work and made 40,000mk per month. Alfred took part in the tailoring training at KODO, graduating in March 2019. He now runs a very attractive tailoring shop outside his house and his business is going well. Alfred is now making 150,000mk per month. His income supports his whole family and he has been able to buy a bike, a goat and a phone. He is also saving money. Alfred has ambition to employ other tailors and grow his business, within his community. He has made organic manure and passed on the skill to 13 others in his community.



MANON OGER

Manon is 24 years old and from Belgium. She took part in the European Volunteer Service and was placed at the Tools for Solidarity workshops in Belfast. "The first month of learning about the tools and sewing machines was hard but it did become easier. I enjoyed working with my hands and even started a sewing group. As well as working with the tools I was given the opportunity to learn about Tools for Solidarity's fundraising, partnership and educational sub-groups. I really enjoyed my EVS year, one of the best choices of my life". Manon was asked to stay and work with TFS after her EVS year and now works with their partners in Tanzania and is developing a new partnership in Ghana.



CONOR O'HARE

Conor O' Hare is a long- term resident of Camphill Community Mourne Grange. The community is situated where the Mountain of Mourne sweep down to the Irish sea. Conor has been volunteering with Tools for Solidarity for roughly 25 yrs. Before Mourne Grange established its own workshop, he travelled once a week to the Belfast workshop to volunteer there. Conor is a big part of the community Tools for Solidarity workshop. He has taken on the role of chief sand blaster, so lots of builders' trowels get his full attention. "Over the years I have come to really appreciate the opportunity to be involved with Tools for Solidarity. To be involved with other volunteers to try and improve the life of others less fortunate than ourselves. I have great admiration for the people with physical disabilities in Malawi, how they are determined to help themselves and their families despite their circumstances."



TOOL WORKSHOPS



We have tools and sewing machines being donated and refurbished at 7 workshops across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The tools and sewing machines are refurbished by groups of adults with learning difficulties, mental health difficulties, people with dementia and retired people.

The quality of the tools and Singer sewing machines that are donated make them worth shipping across the world, as they are durable and can be repaired. They are also recycled. Without the input of the workshops in Scotland and Northern Ireland, we would be forced to buy tools and machines in Malawi, which are cheaply made, break easily, and cannot be repaired.

This project promotes skill development in Scotland and Malawi, engaging volunteers in international development, including people with learning and mental health difficulties across the UK. There are many skills involved in refurbishing the tools and machines and the work can be adapted to suit any technical ability.

The volunteers enjoy the social nature of the tools groups and find it really rewarding to be helping individuals so directly in Malawi. In addition, this project contributes to a reduction of waste in the UK in terms of the recycled tools and sewing machines.



Quality in Life

Garvald Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity offering creative opportunities and support for people with learning disabilities. They are inspired by the ideas of the educator and philosopher, Rudolf Steiner and have been operating in Edinburgh since 1969.



Left to right: Warren Canham, Brian Baird, Melinda Andrews, John Newey, Tony Schofield, Dhaoud Hussain, Joe Gibney, Liz Haliday, Kevin Murray.



Left to right: Lesley Barker, Robert Mitchell, Warren Canham, Kevin Marshall, Stewart Keith, Dhaoud Hussain, Malcolm Lindsay, Jamie Lusk

MILLTOWN COMMUNITY



Eric Davidson, Ben Payne

Milltown Day Workshop, South Aberdeenshire, was set up in 1996 to provide practical work activities for local people with a range of disabilities. Restoring tools has been one of our most popular activities in our Day Workshop for nearly 20 years. The work is done by people who have some disabilities, but more importantly are enthusiastic and like to have a good laugh!



Left to right, back: Michelle Parkinson, Brian Gifford, Valerie Coutts, Tony Greene
Left to right, front: Scott Perera and Stuart Saunders



THE ECOLOGY CENTRE, FIFE

The Ecology Centre is a charity that brings people and nature together. They offer environmental education, volunteering opportunities and also create and manage habitats for wildlife.



Left to right: Lee Brown, Robert Smith, Pat Convery, Bill Ashcroft, Ken Littlemore, Fred Varney



BEANNACHAR CAMPBILL COMMUNITY



Left to right: Tilmann Reinardy, Rory Fraser, Steven McDonald, Sam Ashton, Jackie Mullen, Amos Joyce-Breton, Barry Ironside, Natalie Wilkinson, Theresa Tesing

Camphill Beannachar offers residential care and day work placements for young adults with learning disabilities. Besides a strong land-based work programme with a farm, walled garden and 27- acre estate, Beannachar runs a variety of craft workshops and is delighted to host, since the summer of

2015, a part-time "Tools For Self-Reliance" tools workshop. Although currently a part-time workshop, it is very popular with the students and strongly supported over the past 10 years by the Ellon Rotary Club. We will be looking to run it full time in the future.

THE MOURNE GRANGE CAMPBILL COMMUNITY

The Mourne Grange Camphill Community in Killeel runs a small workshop focusing on cane furniture making and carpentry kits.



Left to right: Neal, James Ferguson, Connor O'Hare, Geoff Claxton.



Tools For Solidarity

There had been a tools group operating in Belfast since 1984. Tools For Solidarity arose from this group in 1992 and has been running a volunteer managed workshop since then. We have a team of international and local volunteers some of whom are people with disabilities/learning difficulties.



Back left to right: Antione Freemont, Tapi Sweto, Andrei Rybakov, Jessica Chianella, Ross Acton, Finn Jost, Ken Orr, Cormac Murtagh, John Wood, Michael Corrigan
Front left to right: Manon Oger, Stephen Wood, Jennifer Michel.



Left to right: Gary Bulmer, Chris Vaughan, Eddie Rice, Hilary Cosgrove, Michael O'Neil, Stephen Wood, Emmanuel Wattes, John Corry, Graham Stevenson, Laurence Smyth.

The Downpatrick workshop opened its doors to volunteers in January 2004 in a workshop cold enough to ensure the volunteers stuck around - they stuck to all those freezing metal tools. The Downpatrick workshop is open to all and particularly welcomes people with mental health issues.

The workshop is open 4 days a week and there are currently about 30 volunteers who drop in each week. We are delighted to work together with all the tools groups in Scotland to support the GCT.

IMPACT

To date, over 500 adults with disabilities in Malawi have undergone training and received start up tools. The impact upon graduate trainees has been truly immense, with 97% having succeeded in setting up new businesses. We have recorded an average increase in income for trainees of 345%, and an increase in trainees' families' income of 221%.

In real terms this translates to a substantial improvement of living standards for trainees and their families; being able to afford better food, basic household goods, livestock, medicine, labour, agricultural tools, seeds, land rental, labour and even better housing. Graduate trainees have shown that their businesses are expanding, with 87% achieving economic self sufficiency and many able to invest in secondary businesses for the family.

As significant as the increase of income to graduates, is the increase in their confidence, independence, and ability to plan for the future.



Harrison Chingapa



Alinape Sapulani



Hyphen Casim



Austin Kachiswe



Kapolo Chibowa



Theresa Yeti



Nasoni Mthambala



Msautso Chibwe



Ashiraf Sudi



Clyde Banda



Innocent Phiri



Rebecca Likagwa



Yamikani Mshanga



Kenneth Maulawa



Lucy Ntale



Harrison Chingapa



Yohana Kholowa



Loveness Kavala



Madalitso Chiluba



Alisenio Siwido



Gilbert Chimbiya



Trifonia William



Kasawala Kamanga



Lucius Azele



Mulenga Chirwa.JPG



Catherine Chunga



Elube Herbert



Harry Ernest



Margaret Safari



Mavis Kankinga



Christina Yesaya



Duniya Frank



Philda Sakazani



Samuel Cosmos



Oswald Banda



This project is funded by the Scottish Government as part of the Scotland Malawi Partnership Agreement.

We would like to thank them, together with our partners KODO, MACOHA, The Scottish Tools for Self Reliance Workshops, The Ecology Centre and Tools for Solidarity for making this project possible.



The Global Concerns Trust is a registered charity in Scotland: SC025640

Written by Emma Duncan

www.globalconcernstrust.org.uk