



2022 Annual Report

Deepening a just struggle

Get to know us.

ActionAid Malawi is a local organisation registered in 2007 under the Companies Act as Company Limited by guarantee. ActionAid Malawi is an affiliate member of ActionAid Federation, a Global Justice organisation that aims at addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice, with particular focus on women, young women, and girls. ActionAid Malawi started working in Malawi in 1990.



Deepening a just struggle. _

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8.2 Know our Senior Management Team

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1.0 Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAM	ActionAid Malawi
ADC	Area Development Committee
ADMARC	Agriculture Development Marketing Corporation
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
CBCC	Community Based Childcare Centres
CDSS	Community Day Secondary Schools
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
COWFA	Coalition of Women Farmers
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CPC	Civil Protection Committee
C-19RM	COVID-19 Response Mechanism
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DDF	District Development Fund
DEC	District Executive Committee
DEM	District Education Manager
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EU	European Union
FARMSE	Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders
	and Enterprises Programme
FFS	Farmers Field Schools
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IHART	International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team
LRP	Local Rights Programme
MISA	Media Institute for Southern Africa
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PSAA	Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance
RAC	Reflect Action Circles
SDC	Swiss Agency and Development Cooperation
SHEA	Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse
SRI	School Readiness Initiative
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
VWW	Valuing Women Work

2.0 Message from the Board Chairperson



The 2022 heralded new challenges on the realization of social justice in the country. The climate-induced Tropical Storm Ana hit the southern Malawi, resulting in an estimated 945, 728 people needing humanitarian support. A total of 46 people died, 18 went missing and 206 got injured.

Other key sectors including agriculture and education were not spared. At least 115, 388 hectares of crops were destroyed, and 228 school infrastructure was destroyed, rendering over 114, 218 learners without learning materials and facilities.

As the country was recovering from the devastating Tropical Storm Ana, Cholera outbreak, the worst in Malawi's history, besieged the country. The outbreak had claimed over 1,210 lives by December, 2022 and left about four million people in need of support. All this happened at the back of skyrocketing cost of living fueled by a number of factors including the weakening of the local currency on the global market and the war in Ukraine.

The aforementioned crises deepened existing inequalities and poverty in the country, with women, youth and those living in poverty bearing the brunt.

Being a social justice organization, we had to adjust our programming to remain relevant to the ever-shifting context in line with our Country Strategy Paper V: Action for Social Justice.

Using our child sponsorship and institutionally mobilized funds, we responded to the Tropical Storm Ana and Cholera crises by enhancing the capacity of our local partners and district structures in our Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) to strengthen localization of the emergency response and prevention interventions.

We also played a key role in supporting the hosting of the first-ever Intergenerational Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women Leadership which brought together gender experts and feminist leaders from the African continent to catalyze women leadership in political and economic spaces.

It is worth highlighting that we owe the achievements we registered to the unwavering support of our supporters, donors, partners and communities we work with to attain social justice.

Limodzi Tingathe

Dampila

Professor Dorothy Nampota Board Chairperson

3.0 Message from the Executive Director



How time flies! The year 2022 is the 5th and final year in implementing the Country Strategy Paper V: Action for Social Justice. Just like years before it, 2022 challenged ActionAid Malawi to become even more agile in responding to multiple and intersecting crises which have been disproportionately affecting children, youth, women and those living in poverty and exclusion.

In response, we have been working with local partners on the ground in getting to the bottom of the crises and its ramifications on the social justice programming in our impact areas. Informed by the local, national and international context, we have been implementing interventions aimed at reaching out to the worst affected first. For instance, following the devastating Tropical Storm Ana, ActionAid Malawi mobilized resources from staff and International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) and supported 1000 worst affected households in Nsanje and Phalombe Local Rights Program with relief, cash and protection support.

Similarly, during the Cholera crisis, ActionAid Malawi supported 17,000 households in Mzimba and Rumphi Local Rights Programme with medical supplies and capacity building on the prevention and treatment of Cholera outbreak. Through our gender and women empowerment programmes and projects, we have been supporting the youth to challenge the macro-economic policy environment which is fueling various forms of gender-based violence and rights violations, including unpaid care work, decent work deficit and inaccessibility to key services such as education and health.

We have also been complementing government's efforts in provision of gender-responsive public services through construction of school infrastructure to expand access to education for the marginalized children. For instance, through the donation of a Bolero Girls Hostel in Rumphi, we supported creation of a conducive learning environment for about 77 girls. We believe that through progressive taxation policies and laws, government can do more in provision of gender-responsive public services in the country.

I should, therefore, sincerely appreciate all ActionAid Malawi staff for their dedication and commitment to social justice cause in 2022. I am also grateful to the Board and General Assembly for the support they keep rendering to management. Our local and national allies have also been key in building solidarity movements towards social justice.

Lastly but not least, let me join my Board Chairperson in expressing gratitude to donors and supporters for their financial support in 2022 as we look forward to strengthening this cordial relationship in years to come in the best interest of the people living in poverty and exclusion.

Regards



Pamela Kuwali Executive Director

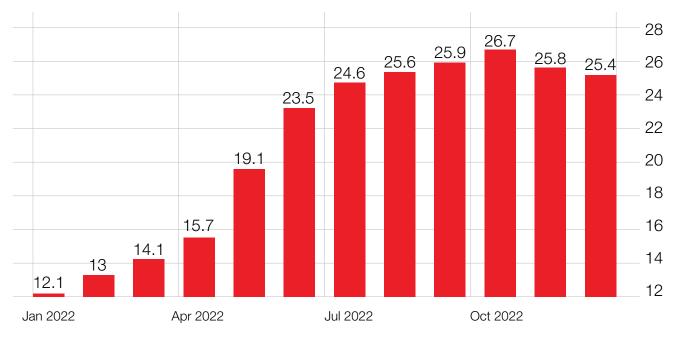
4.0 Development Context



In 2022, ActionAid Malawi implemented programmes and projects in an environment shaped by the following context:

Politically: AAM and partners had a mutual working relationship with government at national, district and local levels. This created a conducive environment for engagements at policy and technical levels. However, there was notable discontent among the public on political and economic challenges which led to moderately violent demonstrations.

Economically: Malawi registered high inflation rate--oscillating between 12% to 26.8%--which escalated the cost of goods and services and reduced disposable income for people living in poverty. This is due to a structurally high consuming and importing economy; the fuel crisis due to forex shortage and the war in Ukraine. A 25% devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha announced by the Reserve Bank in May to ease forex shortages, also contributed to runaway inflation.



Tradingeconomics.com | National Statistical Office of Malawi

Figure 1: A graphic representation of inflation in Malawi in 2022.

COVID -19 Pandemic: COVID -19 cases dramatically decreased, leading to the uplifting of many restrictions, except for use of masks in hospitals. However, side effects of the pandemic such as reduced financial support from donors and a wobbling private sector continued to affect the economy and delivery of services.

Cholera Outbreak : In the year, the country battled the worst Cholera outbreak in history which paralyzed the health sector and caused 1,210 deaths. A total of 36, 943 cases were recorded. As part of the prevention measures, government with support from World Health Organization, administered 2.9 million vaccination doses to the country's citizens.

Food Security: An estimated 2.6 million people, representing 13% of the country population, experienced high acute food insecurity (Malawi household food security bulletin, July 2022). ADMARC, the State-funded grain trader which sells maize at affordable prices was closed for restructuring. As a result, maize prices skyrocketed on the market and worsened inflation, hitting the highest in five years. This made it difficult for people living in poverty to access food and basic needs.

5.0 Our major Milestones in 2022



ActionAid Malawi (AAM) made significant strides in implementation of its work in the year, covering the period from January to December 2022. The work focused on all the three strategic objectives of the Country Strategy Paper V which are:

- 1. To promote and secure realization of women, young women, and girls' rights.
- 2. To build resilience of people living in poverty while strengthening women led secure livelihoods, preparedness, and emergency response.
- 3. To enhance civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender-responsive public services.

In 2022, AAM implemented its interventions in eight Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) and seven projects. The LRPs include: Chitipa, Rumphi, Mzimba, Dedza, Mchinji, Chiradzulu, Phalombe and Nsanje. The projects include: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)'s Social Accountability, School Readiness Initiative (SRI), COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C-19RM), Tilimbike (FARMSE), Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), KULIMA-BETTER and Spotlight Initiative.

Overall, the organisation achieved the following milestones in the year:

- Scaled-up people power to influence policy change through individual and collective actions of people most affected by poverty including young women and girls.
- Increased autonomy and responsiveness of oversight institutions on several issues regarding public social accountability.
- Provided public services on health, education and agriculture in the wake of limited public budgetary support as a result of weak resource envelope and COVID-19 effects and climate induced disasters.
- Reduced poverty and food insecurity through financial access and livelihood capacity to 41,833 people (32,964 female, 8,869 male).
- Saved lives and responded to the Cholera outbreak in Mzimba and Rumphi using the ActionAid humanitarian signature.

Policy Engagements, National level and District meetings.

The following were key policy engagements.

1) _____

Policy dialogues on economic justice and high cost of living were held with government by people living in poverty particularly women and young women, and youth, CSOs, media and opinion leaders such as activists and artists.

2)_____

Advocacy to challenge negative Dialogues and interfaces with social norms and practices by national and district councils women collectives (groups/institu- on gender responsive public tions) through advocacy cam- services through interface paigns, media campaigns and meetings, commemorations, participation in commemorations and national conferences. such as 16 Days of Activism and Day of the Girl Child, Climate Justice campaign among others.

3)_____

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6.0 Highlights on interventions under the priority areas

6.1Promoting and securing realization of women, young women, and girls' rights



Focus area: Addressing structural causes of violence against women, young women, and girls, and promoting effective response mechanisms for survivors of violence.

During the year, a total of 380 women and young women collectives, a 106% increase of the baseline target, have been taking joint action with allies to challenge oppressive forms of patriarchy and violence. More collectives have been formed in Spotlight Initiative projects such as UNFPA- Toto Nkhaza & UNWOMEN project and programmes where young women meet in safe spaces and Reflect Action Circles. The collectives have been engaging gatekeepers to ensure SGBV perpetrators are brought to book.

For instance, in Traditional Authorities Chindi and M'thwalo, seven perpetrators were convicted and sentenced for rape and defilement cases between January and June. A total of 21 girls were rescued from child marriages and 70% returned to school and linked with social welfare offices for school bursary support.



Moreover, AAM ensured that women, young women and girls gain knowledge and skills in power analysis to enable them mitigate VAWG. In the year, 12,646 women, young women and girls, surpassing the baseline target by 109%, were empowered to challenge patriarchy that predisposes them to violence and exploitation. Through collectives, women, young women, and girls have taken joint action with allies such as mother groups and child protection committees to challenge VAWG. As a result, there is an increase in reporting of VAWG cases among girls and young women. Furthermore, engagement meetings have taken place with gatekeepers and traditional leaders on ending harmful cultural practices where issues of forcing pregnant girls into marriages and child marriages were addressed.

Additionally, 7,412 women, young women and girls, a 116% increase of the baseline target, accessed VAWG response comprehensive service during the year. Women forums conducted counselling sessions aimed at addressing cases of GBV among the youth and married couples. In addition to the counselling sessions, the women forums together with the local leaders conducted community awareness meetings on the dynamics of VAWG and issues that need to be addressed. Most of the awareness meetings were conducted during the 16 days of Activism, focusing on GBV and addressing the VAGW response comprehensive services, which led to improved reporting of the GBV cases.

Summary Achievements under Focus Area:

- **380** women and young women collectives were supported to take joint action with allies to challenge all forms of patriarchy and violence.
- 12,646 women, young women and girls were trained and mentored to challenge patriarchy that predisposes them to violence and exploitation through various collectives.
- **7,412** women, young women and girls accessed VAWG response comprehensive service.

Focus Area: Promoting women's economic justice



Members of Feminist Macroeconomic Alliance Malawi in Dedza demonstrating against oppressive economic policies During the year, a total of 20,009, young women and girls, a 100% increase of the baseline target, were empowered to demand an end of unjust macro-economic policies and austerity measures and proposed feminist economic wellbeing. This was championed by Valuing Women Work, Mchinji and Dedza LRPs.

Moreover, 24,058 women, young women and girls, a 107% of the baseline target, had access and control of productive resources. AAM has been promoting women's economic justice through access and control of productive resources. Some of the notable activities that were implemented are goat pass on and Village Savings and Loans (VSL). During the year, about 310 VSL groups were formed. Formation of VSL groups was promoted by local rights programmes and various projects such as FARMSE, SRI, Better-Kulima project, AGYW and Spotlight initiative. The VSL groups are mostly composed of women, and they have supported women to access capital for their businesses.

Summary Achievements under Focus Area:

• **20,009** young women and girls were trained and supported to demand an to end unjust macro-economic policies and austerity measures in public services.

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- **24,058** women and young women accessed productive capital and assets through projects by FARMSE, KULIMA BETTER, SRI, AGYW and LRPs.
- **310** VSLAs were formed

Focus Area: Promoting women, young women, and girls to control their bodies inward and outwardly



During the year, 217,047 women, young women and girls, representing 109% of the baseline target, accessed SRHR services. This was mainly due to the AGYW project in Mangochi which conducted SRHR sensitization meetings in both primary and secondary schools and communities to equip adolescent girls and young women with knowledge and skills to avoid early pregnancies and marriages and access of SRH services. Young people aged 10-24 years attending school were reached with comprehensive sexuality education and/or life skills-based HIV education in schools.

Story of Change:



Fore fronting men against GBV

One Sunday afternoon of September, Alick Gondwe's attention was drawn towards a noise of a physical fight inside a roadside house. He was shocked to learn that the man beating up his wife was Benjamin Mvalo, a well-known soccer player many youth in Chanozga-Ng'oma Village, Traditional Authority M'thwalo in Mzimba District look up to.

Gondwe, a male champion under the ActionAid Malawi's "Audacity to Disrupt Gender-based Violence against women and girl" project in the area, engaged a couple in a long session of counselling and sensitized them on the human rights implications of gender-based violence (GBV).

Since then, Mvalo is a changed man and has been taking a leading role in engaging fellow men to stop sexual and GBV against women and girls in the area. "I used to take alcohol which influenced me into beating up my wife. Moreover, here in Mzimba, beating up a wife is not regarded as gender-based violence. So, I took it as a normal way of teaching the wife some good manners in line with our culture.

"However, Alick Gondwe enlightened me against my behavior, and I am now a dedicated champion of the campaign against gender-based violence because I know there are many men who still beat up their wives, like I used to," says the 32-year-old Mvalo. According to Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, 34% of women aged between 15 and 49 reported experiencing physical violence, 14% sexual violence, and 23% emotional violence.

It is such blood-curdling statistics that compel Gondwe to reason that introducing the male championship in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence in the area is proving effective in shifting attitudes, behavior, and norms among the male folk in the area.

He says as male champions, they are reaching out to fellow men with campaign against GBV in areas women cannot reach. Gondwe says he and fellow male champions in the area have been employing the 'barbershop toolkit' innovation in platforms such as bawo, drinking joints and soccer events to engage men on the anti-GBV crusade.

"We want men to be discussing issues around gender-based violence with deeper self-reflection. Most men now realise that indulging in gender-based violence is not part of masculinity but a criminal conduct. The chiefs are also in full support of the campaign" explains Gondwe.

Continued...

Gondwe says the male champions are also working with other structures such as women forums, community policing, and community victim support units in following up on SGBV cases in the area. He adds male champions are currently engaging chiefs on how to handle cases of wife abandonment by men who flock to South Africa in search of "greener pastures"

Gondwe is one of the 25 male champions trained in the area under the project which falls under the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative which ActionAid Malawi is implementing under UN Women partnership.

Geared towards accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices, the SI is built around six inter-connected and mutually reinforcing pillars focusing on laws and policies, institutions, prevention and social norms, response services, data, and the women's rights movement.

Quick facts:

- Spotlight Initiative project is a global, multi-year initiative between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- ActionAid Malawi has been implementing the EU-backed Spotlight Initiative projects in Mzimba with support from UN Women.
- The project uses safe space mentorship model and movement building to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender-based Violence SGBV.
- The project has target of 27,510 beneficiaries in both Ntchisi and Mzimba districts.

National engagements



Supported hosting International Dialogue on Generation Equality (GE) and Women's Leadership

Between 7th to 9th April 2022, ActionAid Malawi supported Malawi Government in hosting the first ever High-Level International Dialogue on Generation Equality (GE) and Women's Leadership in Africa at Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe. The Conference was held under the theme "Growing and Glowing Against all Odds".

The event that was attended by high-level dignitaries, including former heads of state and global business captains, created an opportunity to facilitate intergenerational dialogue among multi-stakeholder groups on women's leadership and political participation, ending violence against women and girls, women's economic empowerment, and strengthening intergenerational solidarity to retain women leaders and empower young women leaders in the development, humanitarian, and conflict prevention context. The conference also unveiled the First Women Trade Centre in Lilongwe, and the gathering further provided a unique opportunity for networking for women in business at regional, continental and global levels.

Participation during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign

As a feminist and human rights organization, ActionAid Malawi and partners participated in the 2022 16 Days of Activism (DOA) against Gender Based Violence campaign by implementing a number of activities. The key activities the organisation and allies implemented and participated in include: a digital awareness campaign with a focus on challenging the unjust macro-economic policies prescribed by the International Financial Institutions and proposing just and feminist well-being economic models.

The organization also participated in the district and national launch of the campaign themed: "Unite, Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls" ActionAid mobilized LRP partners and youth platforms, namely Global Platform Malawi and Youth Activista to highlight the key interventions they are implementing to prevent GBV and support survivors. 6.2 Building resilience of people living in poverty while strengthening women led secure livelihoods, preparedness, and emergency response.

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Focus Area: Food and nutrition sovereignty, agroecology and natural resource rights and defense of the commons

During the year, over 4,440 women and young people, representing 101% increase of the baseline target, were trained in manure making as part of promoting agroecology. The aim was to equip farmers with knowledge in making organic farm manure which would mitigate the expenditure on inorganic fertilizers whose prices have skyrocketed beyond smallholder farmer's affordability. Thus, it was learnt that manure making offered a viable and environment friendly farming alternatives. The year 2022 witnessed an increase in the adoption of agroecological farming practices, especially in LRPs such as Rumphi, Dedza and Mchinji and KULIMA-BETTER supported districts of Nkhatabay and Chiradzulu.

For example, Kapiri Community Development Organisation (KACODO) an ActionAid Malawi partner in Mchinji, trained 375 young women in agroecology and agroecology advocacy. This resulted in community dialogues, policy dialogues and conducting of an agroecology demonstration day in Mchinji LRP where district council officials participated. The young women are using the agroecology products such as briquettes from crop residual for income and reduction of carbon emissions.



Focus Area: Climate justice through transformative resilience

In the year, a total of 47,488 women, representing 106% of the baseline target, were trained and supported to be resilient to climate change under KULIMA BETTER, FARMSE Project, Mchinji and Dedza LRPs. They are now aware of climate change policies, coping and mitigation strategies.

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Focus Area: Localized women and young people-led emergency and humanitarian preparedness and response



In the year, AAM supported the development of disaster preparedness plans for the 2022/2023 season in Phalombe and Nsanje Local Rights Programmes which are prone to frequent and intense climate induced disasters. The plans were developed from Community Based Disaster Risk Management plans and targeted five most affected communities in the two LRPs. Moreover, following the Tropical Storm Ana that left 945, 728 people needing humanitarian support, ActionAid Malawi supported 1,000 worst affected households with relief, cash and protection support in line with ActionAid humanitarian signature.



Furthermore, following the cholera outbreak which hit the country, ActionAid Malawi trained a total of 299,642 women and young women, representing 7502% increase of the baseline target, were supported in emergency and humanitarian response across all the eight LRPs. This resulted in reduction of cases, saving of lives through medication and chlorination and increased policy attention and coordination. The response also utilized the ActionAid humanitarian signature where it was led by partners, especially women and youth.

Summary Achievements Under Priority Area 2:

- 4,440 women and young people were trained in manure making as part of promoting agroecology.
- 375 young women were trained in Agroecology and Agroecology Advocacy
- 47,488 women were trained and supported to be resilient to climate change
- 299,642 women and young women were trained on emergency and humanitarian response.

Story of Change:



Ngulube now has access to clean and safe water within her vicinity

Accountability in practice: Chimswera communities unite in campaign for clean and safe water.

Chrissy Ngulube of Chimswera Village in Rumphi District counts herself lucky for surviving the deadly Cholera disease earlier in the month of November. The 44-year-old Ngulube believes that, if she did not seek treatment in good time, she would be part of over 1200 lives lost to the disease by december 2022 across the country.

"My rushing to Bolero Health Centre followed series of sensitization campaigns by Chikulamayembe Women Forum on the signs and symptoms of Cholera and the need to seek early treatment," recounts Ngulube.

Chikulamayembe Women Forum is a Rumphi-based ActionAid Malawi partner that implements various interventions towards the attainment of social justice. Since the outbreak of Cholera in March 2022, the local organisation, with financial support from ActionAid under the International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) has been running sensitization campaigns and building the capacity of communities in various impact areas, including Chimswera Village, where Ngulube lives.

According to Malawi Ministry of Health, the major factors associated with the Cholera outbreak in the communities are poor food hygiene, lack of safe water and low latrine coverage and usage.

Looking at the danger Lunyina River poses with regards to the Cholera outbreak, Chimswera women with support from Chikulamayembe Women Forum launched a campaign to demand clean and safe water from the Rumphi District Council. The Council liased with the Northern Region Water Board that installed the water kiosk in the area mid-November, 2022.

The development turned into a huge relief for Ngulube and 30 households of Chimswera who are no longer drinking unsafe water from the contaminated Lunyina River.

"Clean and Safe water is no longer an issue now and since we started using the water from the kiosk installed by the Water Board, there is no single Cholera case reported from our area," remarks a visibly relieved Ngulube, a mother of five.

Grace Phiri, leader of the newly elected Chimswera Waters Users Committee, says households in the area are now getting united in contributing money to pay for the water bill at the kiosk every month.

"We have lost three lives to Cholera in our area, so we don't want to lose more lives. We will ensure that we take care of this water kiosk. We contribute about K10, 000 (US\$9) every month for the water bill here and we find the amount affordable, considering that there are over 30 households benefiting from the kiosk. We no longer want to be associated with Cholera cases here," says Phiri.

Quick facts:

- Malawi recorded the first cholera case in March, 2022
- By December, 2022, over 17, 448 cases and over 1200 associated deaths had been recorded from all 29 districts.
- In response, Malawi Government received 2.9 million doses of cholera vaccine through the World Health Organization
- Under its emergency preparedness and response priority area, ActionAid Malawi had been implementing cholera prevention and response programmes in all its LRPs.
- With funding from IHART, ActionAid Malawi implemented cholera response in Rumphi and Khosolo LRPs through raising awareness, donating medical supplies and training community health workers
- A total of 17,000 people benefitted from ActionAid Malawi cholera response.

National Engagement:

Participating at the 2022 Malawi Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization Conference



ActionAid Malawi social accountability project manager, Wales Chigwenembe (left) during conference panel discussion

ActionAid Malawi in June participated at the 2022 Malawi Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization Conference taking place at the BICC, Lilongwe. Held under the theme: "Driving Agricultural Diversification in support of Aspirations of MW2063" the conference brought together policy makers, academia, civil society, media, corporate world and farmers organizations who discussed key strategies and steps towards sustainable agricultural productivity and commercialization.

Malawi President His Excellency Dr. Lazarus Chakwera officially opened the two-day conference that ran from 9th to 10th June. During one of the panel discussions, ActionAid Malawi Social Accountability project manager, Wales Chigwenembe, highlighted practical approaches and policy responses on the inclusion of youth and women in the agricultural diversification agenda.

6.3 Enhancing civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality gender-responsive public services



Focus Area: State management for the Redistribution of resources

In this period, AAM continued to ensure that people living in poverty and exclusion are using various advocacy platforms to hold government to account. The people living in poverty conducted interface meetings and studio talk debates and community journalism approaches as a way of influencing duty bearers to address the issues faced in the districts. This has mainly been championed by the Partnership for Social Accountability project in Nsanje and Mchinji districts.

For instance, in Mchinji T/A Mkanda interface meeting with duty bearers has resulted in the construction of a youth corner. In T/A Zulu, community members now have an access to an ambulance following a demand raised through interface meetings. In Nsanje, an ambulance was provided to Mphokera Health Centre after an interface meeting which community members had with duty bearers.

Focus Area: Accessible, quality, equitable and inclusive public education

During the 2022/2023 school year, 98,680 children (43,405 boys, 55,275 girls) have enrolled in the 501 CBCCs. This represents 104% increase from 2021. A total of 581 caregivers have enrolled in a self-guided course where the primary schools with their feeder CBCCs formed learning groups to enable pre-primary caregivers and the standard one teachers meet bi-monthly to learn through a self-guided course in early childhood development.



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This ensured that caregivers who are volunteers understand how to create a conducive learning and stimulation environment for children's development. The milestones are largely attributable to the School Readiness Initiative (SRI) project which is being implemented in 291 CBCCs and 67 primary schools in four districts, including the 210 CBCCs and 69 primary schools. During the year, 52,339 children transitioned from CBCCs to primary schools. This represents 111% increase from 2021. The impact districts include: Lilongwe Rural, Balaka, Mulanje and Phalombe districts.

Furthermore, to enhance access to gender public services for those living in poverty, ActionAid Malawi supported Bolero Secondary School with a girls hostel aimed at improving the learning environment for the girls. The hostel is currently accommodating 77 girls at the school.

Focus area: Strengthening Community Systems in addressing public health



During the year, 295,089 adolescent girls and young women, representing 118% increase from 2021, were reached with HIV prevention programs defined package of services. A total of 32,871 adolescent girls and young women were tested for HIV during the reporting period and those found to be HIV positive were referred for ART service. Moreover, under the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C-19RM) ActionAid Malawi strengthened partners' capacity to respond to COVID-19 through the donation of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and enablers worth One Billion Kwacha to its five Sub-Sub Recipients (SSRs) to ease their interventions in against the pandemic.

The equipment which included, hand sanitizers, soaps, facemasks, and bicycles were handed over to SAT-Africa, Creative Centre for Community Mobilisation (CRECCOM) Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) and Malawi Network of People Living with HIV (Manet+)

Summary Achievements Under Program Priority Three:

- Robust advocacy with relevant stakeholders in Education, Agriculture and Health sector.
- 98,680 children (43,405 boys, 55,275 girls) accessing ECD in 501 CBCCs.
- 52,339 children transitioned from CBCCs to primary schools.
- 295,089 adolescent girls and young women were reached with HIV prevention programs defined package of services.
- 32,871 adolescent girls and young women were tested for HIV
- Five local partners' capacity strengthened to respond to COVID-19



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School Readiness Initiative (SRI)

Story of Change:

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Early learning unlocks bright future for Nathan

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Nathan: ECD prepared me well for primary education

Nathan, 11, is a Standard Six learner at Mutu Primary School in Lilongwe and has been top of his class since Standard One. Nathan, who dreams of becoming an engineer, says his ECD background at Mutu CBCC helped him develop strong passion for education. "The CBCC had a lot of play materials, and the caregivers were so supportive. I would recite the calendar, alphabet letters and count numbers from one to ten when I was just three. ECD is the most important foundation for education," he says.

Nathan is one of the 1,000 learners who have successfully transitioned to a nearby Mutu Primary School, thanks to the Roger Federer Foundation-funded ECD programme implemented by ActionAid Malawi from 2011 to 2021. Nathan's inspiring education journey impressed Southern Africa ECD Networks members who toured Mutu CBCC to understand how ActionAid Malawi is running the ECD programme in the country. The members, drawn from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho and Eswatini, also visited Mtembe satellite CBCC in Traditional Authority Kabudula in Lilongwe to appreciate the role of community ownership and participation to the sustainability of ECD in the country.

Currently, ActionAid Malawi is implementing the School Readiness Initiative at the school with funding from the Roger Federer Foundation in Lilongwe, Balaka, Mulanje and Phalombe.

Quick facts:

- Since 2021, ActionAid Malawi has been implementing the School Readiness Initiative SRI in Lilongwe Rural, Balaka and Mulanje with funding from the Roger Federer Foundation.
- The project is a successor to a 10-year Comprehensive Early Childhood Development programme which was phased over to Malawi Government
- In 2022, a total of 52,339 children successfully transitioned to primary schools
- Under the SRI approach, CBCCs form learning groups to enable pre-primary caregivers and the standard one teachers meet bi-monthly to learn through a self-guided course in early childhood development.
- The initiative will strengthen the Government of Malawi to fulfill its obligation in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goal Agenda 4.2

National Engagements: Supported the16th Malawi Local Government Association Assembly



ActionAid Malawi made a presentation on policy options in strengthening the local government capacity at 16th Malawi Local Government Association (MALGA) Assembly in line with the aspirations of Malawi 2063. ActionAid Malawi presentation focused on strengthening both the demand and the supply side actors with focus on systems change for improved public gender responsive service delivery at both national level and all the targeted district councils.

Campaigned for policy implementation during the ECD Advocacy Week, Global Parenting Week

In the year, ActionAid Malawi participated at the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Advocacy Week in which, among others, the organisation urged stakeholders including government and the private sector to consider investing in ECD. Similarly, ActionAid co-organized the high-level ECD advocacy event with UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare.

Held at Mutu CBCC in Traditional Authority Mtema in Lilongwe, the event was part of the Commemoration of the Global Parenting Month which falls in June.

At the event, Her Excellency Madame Chakwera was also designated as the National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Ambassador. This was to encourage the First Lady to use Her influence to keep ECD at the centre of the

7.0 Organisational Achievements

7.1 Enhancement of Programme Quality, and Effectiveness (PQE)

In the reporting year, the Program Quality and Effectiveness (PQE) Unit continued to enhance and integrate programme and projects monitoring and evaluation systems through joint review and planning meetings. This was supported by the continuous mentoring and coaching on quality data management and reporting. The Unit further supported fundraising initiatives through development of the project proposal Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks. Most importantly, the Unit conducted regular field monitoring visits for all the programmes and project to inform effective reporting as well as consolidate reports from programmes and projects activities, outputs, and achievements for the annual program report. The Unit further developed the Monitoring Dashboard which has proved key in effective tracking of the implementation against targets.

7.2 Championing Business Development, Grant Management and Communication

To strengthen grant management, the Unit continued to build the capacity of programme and finance staff to fully utilize the Contract Management System (CMS). The Unit also led in the resource mobilisation processes through development of strategic partnerships and project proposals to support implementation of the country strategy paper.

The Unit continued with supporter servicing and engagement through child message collection and development of community voices for dissemination to supporters and potential donors. The Unit re-invigorated its communications and visibility portfolio through strengthening staff and media capacity in communicating ActionAid Malawi impact, refreshing, and expanding digital platforms for increased engagements on ActionAid Malawi work.

7.3 Strengthening Human Resource, Administration and Organisational Development

In the reporting year, the Human Resource, Organizational Development and Administration (HROAD) unit continued to provide a conducive working environment to staff and aligning of HR Policies to suit the current status both economically and legally.

The Unit facilitated the amendment of some sections in the HR Policy and inclusion of some for the betterment of employees. Furthermore, the unit spearheaded some staff trainings as a way of capacity building

7.4 Enhancing Internal Governance

In the reporting year, the Governance of ActionAid Malawi continued to provide strategic decisions and directions by way of holding four quarterly board and committee meetings.

New board and Assembly members went through induction to familiarize themselves with ActionAid Malawi and ActionAid International and their roles.

Know our General Assembley



Patrick Siwinda Convener. Rights Holder



Tionge Gondwe Member. Rights Holder



Catherine Chiwaya Member. Rights Holder



Saiti Chikwapulo Member. Activism



Mtonthozeni Kachitsa Member. Management



Frank Godfrey Msiska Member. Agriculturalist



Bethel Chihana Member. Accounting



Dr. Syned Mthatiwa Member. Academia



Lilian Chirambo Member. Governace



Charity Kapalamula Member. Rights Holder



Lackson Kalua Member. Rights Holder



Getrude Chimbalanga Member. Rights Holder



Beatrice Makawa Member. Rights Holder



Rose Muyaya Member. Gender



Pr. Lilian Kumwenda Member. Rights Holder



Senior Chief Kachele Member. Rights Holder



Alex Mzungu Member. Rights Holder



Ellen Matupi Member. Rights Holder



Natasha Mbalule Member. Auditing



Rhoda Bakuwa Member. Human Resource



Fred Mwafulirwa Member. Finance



Ofwa Alide Member. Legal Advocacy



Ulemu Jumbe Member. Auditing



Pilirani Chuma Member.



Chandiwira Chisi Member. Policy Governance



Linda Kabanda Member. Women Empowerment



Jacqueline Chiwale Member. Media



Teresa Chirwa Ndanga Member. Media



Grace Nyambo Member Human Resource Administration



Dr. Chikondi Mpokosa Member. Social Development

Know our Board of Directors



Prof. Dorothy Nampota Chairperson



Grace Mkupu Vice Chairperson



Rodgers Kamphinda Treasurer



Gerald Pute Member



Justice Mandala Mambulasa Member



Felistas Chikusilo Member



Mary Nsemwa Member



Myness Mkandawire Member



Murphy Kajumi Member



Rev. Towera Masiku Member



Madalitso Ngwira Member

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Know our Senior Management Team



Pamela Kuwali Executive Director



Wongani Mugaba Programme and Policy Lead



Dan Likungwe Finance and Grants Lead

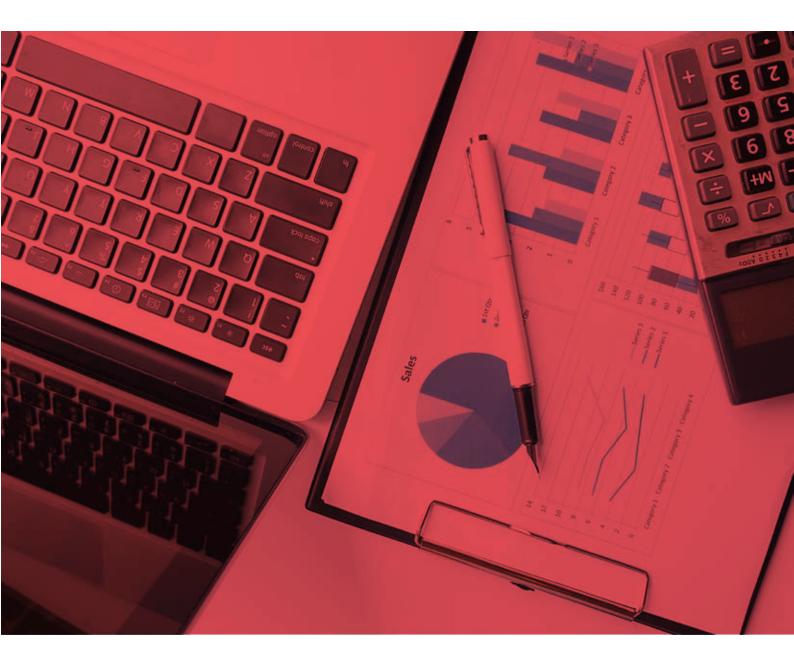


Manford Munthali Human Resource and Administration Manager



Thembile Malinki Business Development, Grants Management and Communications Manager

8.0 Financial Performance and Audits



ACTIONAID MALAWI

DIRECTORS' REPORT For the year ended 31 December 2022

Incorporation and registered office

ActionAid Malawi is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Malawi under the Companies Act 2013. It is engaged in development advocacy and relief work across three priority areas which include; "Promote and secure the realization of women, young women and girls' rights", "Build resilience of people living in poverty whilst strengthening women-led secure livelihoods, preparedness and emergency response" and Enhance civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender-responsive public service."

The address of its registered office is:

ActionAid Malawi P.O. Box 30735 LILONGWE

Financial performance:

The results and state of affairs of the Company are set out in the accompanying statement of financial position, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in reserves, statement of cash flows, significant accounting policies and notes.

Board of Directors

The following Directors served office during the year:

The following billootore berred on	ve duning	the year.	
Professor Dorothy Nampota	-	Chairperson	Full year
Mr. Rodgers Kamphinda	-	Treasurer	Full year
Mr. Gerald Pute	-	Director	Full year
Mr. Mandala Mambulasa		Director	Full year
Mrs. Felistas Chikusilo	-	Director	Full year
Mrs Myness Mkandawire	-	Director	Full year
Mrs. Mary Nsemwa		Director	Full year
Mrs. Grace Mkupu	· -	Director	Full year
Mrs. Pamela Kuwali	-	Executive Director	From March 2022
Mr. Murphy Kajumi	-	Director	Full Year
Mrs. Madalitso Ngwira	-	Director	Full Year
Rev. Towera Masiku	-	Director	Full Year

Bankers

Standard Bank plc National Bank of Malawi plc First Discount House

Legal Counsel Lloyds and Associates P.O. Box 2103 LILONGWE

Independent auditor Grant Thornton Anamwino House P.O. Box 30453 <u>LILONGWE 3</u>

The Company's independent auditors, Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, have indicated their willingness to continue in office as independent auditors of the Company's 31st December 2023 financial statements.

nmpod Chairperson

20 Authorised Director

16th June Date: 2023

ACTIONAID MALAWI

DIRECTORS' REPORT For the year ended 31 December 2022

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Full year From March 2022 Full Year Full Year Full Year Full Year

Bankers Standard Bank plc National Bank of Malawi plc First Discount House

Legal Counsel Lloyds and Associates P.O. Box 2103 LILONGWE

Independent auditor Grant Thornton Anamwino House P.O. Box 30453 LILONGWE 3

The Company's independent auditors, Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, have indicated their willingness to continue in office as independent auditors of the Company's 31st December 2023 financial statements.

2023

Chairperson

16th June

Authorised Director

Date:

ACTIONAID MALAWI

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES For the year ended 31 December 2022

The Directors and management are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial statements of ActionAid Malawi, comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, and the statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in reserves and cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the directors' report, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2013 of Malawi.

The Act also requires the directors to ensure that the Company keeps proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act, 2013 of Malawi.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors accept responsibility for the following:

- Maintenance of proper accounting records;
- Selection of suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently;
- Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Compliance with applicable accounting standards when preparing financial statements, subject to any material
 departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Preparation of financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the company will continue in business.

The Directors are also responsible for such internal controls as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and for maintaining adequate accounting records and an effective system of risk management.

The Directors have assessed the Company's ability to continue as a going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The Directors have made an assessment and they attest to the adequacy of accounting records and effectiveness of the systems of internal controls and effective risk management for the Company.

The auditor is responsible for reporting on whether the annual financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and in the manner required by the Companies Act, of Malawi.

Approval of financial statements

The financial statements of the Company, as indicated above, were approved by the Board of Directors on 2023 and are signed on its behalf by.

By order of the Board.

Chairperson

Authorised Director



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIONAID MALAWI

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ActionAid Malawi set out on pages 5 to 19 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, and the statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in reserves and cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, of the financial position of the ActionAid Malawi as at 31 December 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2013 of Malawi.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' (Code for Ethics of Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)) and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA code. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' Report and the Statement of Directors Responsibilities but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report there on.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2013 of Malawi and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Resident Portners

Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors

L.M. Gama H.B. Nyirenda B.J. Mwenelupemb G. Tembo Grant Thornton Incompany number BN 3832 Grant Thornton Malawi is a member of Grant Thornton International Ltd [GTII,]. GTII, and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTII, and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered independently by the member firms. GTII. does not provide services to clients. GTII. and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another's acts or onissions.

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Grant Thornton Malawi Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors Nurses Council Building New Capital City Centre P.O. Box 30453 Lilongwe 3, Malawi

T +265 01 773 855

T +265 01 773 371

email: mw-information@mw.gt.com

ACTIONAID MALAWI

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) For the year ended 31 December 2022

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
 appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the
 Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Grant Thornton

Joel/Mwenelupembe Chartered Accountant (Malawi) Partner Lilongwe, Malawi

20 MAT Date: 2023

Deepening a just struggle. _

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ACTIONAID MALAWI

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STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2022

In thousands of Malawi Kwacha

	Note	2022	2021
Income			
Committed income	14	1,475,935	1,355,335
Partnership income	15.1	2,855,498	3,622,972
Partnership income-emergency	15.2	2,501,749	774,142
Emergency income	16	59,868	107,610
Other income	17	440,516	98,883
Total Income		7,333,566	<u>5,958,942</u>
Expenditure			
Programme expenditure	18	6,139,592	5,331,795
Support expenditure	19	508,928	669,793
Fundraising expenditure	20	32,008	47,306
Governance expenditure	21	148,126	190,642
ActionAid charges	22	152,549	104,626
Total Expenditure		6,981,203	6,344,162
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		352,363	(385,220)

Deepening a just struggle.

ACTIONAID MALAWI

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES For the year ended 31 December 2022 In thousands of Malawi Kwacha

	Note	General Reserves
Balance as at 1 January 2022		325,148
Surplus for the year		352,363
Balance as at 31 December 2022		<u>677,511</u>
Balance as at 1 January 2021		1,440,755
Deficit for the year		(385,220)
Reserve project balances transfer	23	(730,387)
Balance as at 31 December 2021		325,148

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ACTIONAID MALAWI

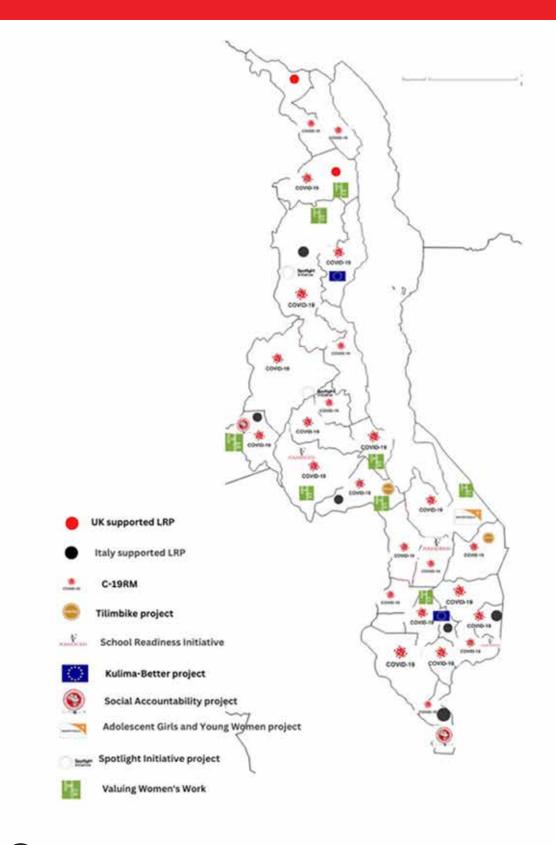
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended 31 December 2021 In thousands of Malawi Kwacha

Cash flows from operating activities	Note	2022	2021
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		352,363	(385,220)
Adjustments for:-		552,505	(365,220)
Depreciation charge		52,081	54,920
Difference in opening balance in Plant and Equipment		52,001	(194)
Disposal of assets -transfer back to the donor		8,000	135,142
Change in accounting principle		8,000	
Net cash generated from/(utilized in) operating activities before Working capital changes:			<u>(730,387)</u>
		412,444	<u>(925,739)</u>
Movement in working capital			
Changes in amounts due from implementing partners		(246,703)	657,105
Changes in other receivables		(129,771)	163,366
Changes in amount due from related parties		(175,209)	(62,946)
Changes in amounts due to related parties		-	(401)
Changes in amounts due to implementing partners		(232)	(90,207)
Changes in other payables		15,902	255,086
Changes in lease liability		(12,460)	(1,339)
Changes in deferred income		73,960	<u>(119,005)</u>
Net cash (utilized in)/ generated from operations		(62,069)	<u>(124,080)</u>
Investing activities			
Purchase of vehicles and equipment	5	(36,661)	(4,605)
Cash used in investing activities		(36,661)	(4,605)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(98,730)	(128,685)
Cash and cash equivalent at beginning of the financial year		1,701,423	1,830,108
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year	10	1,602,693	1,701,423

Our supporters and donors in Action for Social Justice



Our 2022 Geographical Footprints



Feredina Matiana, a beneficiary of Farmse Tilimbike project in Dedza.

Website: www.actionaid.org Telephone: +265(0)17 59 861 Telephone: +265(0)17 59 865

Fax: +265(0)17 55 963 Email: Admin@actionaid.org

ActionAid Malawi,

Private Bag, 30735, Area 9 Plot No. 5/350 Lilongwe, Malawi

Designed and Created by Actionaid Malawi

actionaid

Elizabeth Banda, a member of Farmer Field School in Nkhatabay

Primary School in Lilongwe discussing an academic

PHOTO: Fletcher Simwaka

PHOTO: Fletcher Simwaka

BACK IMAGE: Learners at Makunje

2022 Annual Report Deepening a Just Struggle



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in Actionaid Malawi 🔊 @actionai_mw