

Annual Report



2021

Physical Address: Along M1 Road off Ken Trading Centre, in Malinda Building,

P.O.BOX 2021, Blantyre.

Email: info@chicosudo.org,

Website: <https://www.chicosudo.com>, face book:

Cell: +265(0) 998030018

BACKGROUND

Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organization (CHICOSUDO) is a Malawian nongovernmental organization which was founded by passionate team. The team conducted community assessment within group village headman Kumponda, Senior Chief Kapeni in Blantyre in later 2004, the report revealed that high levels of poverty among women and children in the area, increases their vulnerability gender based violence, illiteracy and diseases. Then through community-led approaches, the organization was formed to uplift the lives of women and children. It was formed as a Community Based Organization (CBO). The team believes that community problems cannot be addressed by the outsiders just because any problem community face, somehow, the solutions are always be found amongst them. With such in mind, CHICOSUDO as the outsider, it's role is to mobilize them so that they analyze, prioritize, make strategies and provide required support to help them achieve their goals. This is where sustainable development comes from.

Chitani CBO grown from 18 villages to 100 villages. In 2012, CHICOSUDO upgraded from being a CBO to local Nongovernmental Organization. Now it operate in two districts, namely: Blantyre and Mulanje.

CHICOSUDO is a registered organization. It registered with Malawi government through Trustees incorporation Act in 2007 as CBO and upgraded in 2012. Its Certificate number is TR/INC 2324.

Vision

Improved lives of underprivileged women and children

Mission

To reduce poverty among marginalized women and children in Malawi by addressing hunger, diseases, injustice and illiteracy through information dissemination, empowerment, support and advocacy.

Objectives

- To improve access to education among marginalized children to enable them gain skills to maximize their potential productive capacities to improve their socio-economic development.
- To empower marginalized women and youth with vocation skills, financial access to enable them attain self reliant.
- To promote and protect the rights of marginalized groups include: women, girls, children, people living with HIV and AIDS, elderly and people with physical disabilities.
- Promote access to health services among marginalized people especially those with disabilities and youth.

Table of contents

1. Word from the Board Chair	4
2. Word from Executive Director	5
3. Summary of Achievements	5
4. Projects featured in the past 12 months	6
4.1. Early Childhood Development	6
4.2. Support for her Education	
4.3. Women empowerment through vocational skills Training.....	12
4.4. Success stories	
5. Partners	18
6. Plan for the next year	19
7. Acknowledgements	19

WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Our Core Business for the year 2020/2021 has not been easy. At the same time, it has been the turning point for usual business. Overall we ensured that we keep on moving. With COVID 19, Cut of funding, thinking of diverting from using appropriate approaches in uplifting the lives of women and children, to fix these issues and keep on making impacts, has only being a vision driven ambitions of striving to see lives of marginalized women and children in rural communities changing. Now, we share the impacts we have had on women and children in our targeted districts.

Our approaches have not been changed so far, but we have done it in other way round. We continued to work with grassroots organizations in the project areas to ensure ownership through local contributions. This is what we believe as a community-led. Our approaches is guided by Malawi 2030 agenda for development. At the same time we follow districts strategic plans to ensure that we aligned ourselves as we complement what Malawi government hope to address. To this far, I appreciate for the tireless job by board of trustees, staff members and volunteers Without their efforts, all these cerebrations could not happen. To our big thanks also goes to our donors and other partners who have contributed towards this.

To go faster, walk alone, but to go far, move as a group. Let's all hold hands to transform the lives of marginalized women and children in areas we work. CHICOSUDO will rely on support for all. As we have are to start new journey, lets move together as partners.

To go faster, walk
alone, but to go far,
move as a group.





In development work, giving up is not a solution to our everyday challenges. Vision driven mind, keeps us moving forward by trying and testing new ways available at hand, to continue changing lives of marginalized women and children. The year ending July 2021 to June 2022, has been the year of continuous bringing change in the lives of marginalized women and children in two impact districts of Blantyre and Mulanje despite challenges created by COVID-19.

Despite the occurrence of pandemic of COVID-19 adding to existing challenges we have been working on. However, we have withstood and continue being productive by complimenting Malawi Government's efforts stipulated in Malawi 2030 agenda for sustainable development. As we are in the fourth year of our 2019 to 2023 strategic plan, what we have learnt have created new thinking of the future interventions for 2022 to 2023.

CHICOSUDO continue to focus on education, women and youth empowerment, end child marriage, water sanitation and hygiene and food security. CHICOSUDO carries its activities in Blantyre and Mulanje districts. Our approach remains on research, information dissemination, support and advocacy. In this report, we share what we have done in three projects, namely: early childhood development, supporting for her education and women empowerment through vocational skills training and access to financial services.

I personally appreciate for the support for the participation of all stakeholders, both at community and district level. At the same time, to our donors who trusted us and reach the wider community members who are struggling with poverty. It's my request that don't let us alone this coming year.

OVERVIEW OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite progress made, poverty rates in Malawi still at 50. % only a slight change. With this, women and children remain vulnerable to many challenges.

Poverty has been major driving factor of different abuse affecting women and children, girls in particular. 29% of women age 15-19 have begun childbearing; 22% have had a live birth and 7% are pregnant with first child. In rural areas, 31% of women age 15-19 have begun childbearing, compared with 21% in urban areas. Poverty, illiteracy, abuse, violence and neglect pose serious health and social concerns among marginalized communities. In particular, women and children are most vulnerable members in the community who suffer adverse physical and psychological consequences of abuse.

To achieve our mission, CHICOSUDO focus areas include: education, women and youth empowerment, end child marriage, water sanitation and hygiene, emergency support and food security.

Through this report, CHICOSUDO share its achievements in areas of work as follows:

- CHICOSUDO supported **234** orphans and vulnerable children by providing early childhood education and nutritious food. One new CBCC center has been established to make it five. All the CBCCs have adopted clean cooking practices and improve adherence to ART.
- Through Support for Her Education project, CHICOSUDO reached 5,500 adolescence girls, parents and community leaders in Blantyre and Mulanje with information and services on importance of girls education, sexual reproductive health, 100 school going adolescence were supported to remain in school, provide secondary school girls with reusable sanitary pads.
- 50 marginalized women of were trained in tailoring and business management to establish small enterprises. 45 targeted marginalized women of 18 to 25 years old accessed to financial services through village and savings loans. At least 31 women established their small businesses.
- As of end June, suspected 87, families were reached with COVID-19 massages, distribution of hand washing facilities and Tip Taps.

2. PROJECTS FEATURED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

2.1. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



The first five years is a vital period in a child's life cycle to ensure children get off to the best start in life. But many children in Malawi face challenges from the day they are born. These ranges from parents or guardians not having the opportunity or knowledge to develop positive parenting skills, to poor health care and nutrition, little early stimulation and learning, and the lack of a protective environment. The challenges increased when children are also affected by HIV/AIDS and humanitarian disasters.

In year ending, CHICOSUDO and it's community members partners adopted child care development framework that empowers, caregivers, health care workers continued supporting the expansion of ECD services through Community-Based Childcare Centres., parents, counsellors to enable them continue helping families to build their relationship with their children and link CBCCs to other development activities.

CHICOSUDO supported **234** orphans and vulnerable children by providing them with early childhood education and nutritious food. The program targeted children of 3 to 5 years who were enrolled in 5 CBCCs which were established in Traditional Authority Kapeni in Blantyre and Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje.

Clean cooking



BEFORE



AFTER

CHICOSUDO continue promoting the use of improved cooking methods like the use of Chitetezo Mbaula.



Make access to early education learning through Community Based Child Care Centers (CBCCS)

2. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES



CHICOSUDO's Campaign on 'Stop Child Marriage' started in July 2019 that managed to withdraw 25 adolescence girls from forced and early marriages under Group Village Headman Ntonya, Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. During the campaign implementation, stakeholders both at district and community level including parents, survivors of child brides and traditional leaders requested CHICOSUDO and other development partners to focus on supporting the survivors of child brides, empowering girls at risk of getting marriage, through keeping them at school, whether primary or secondary alone, it's not enough. Because so many adolescence girls who withdrawn from marriages they remarry even drop out of school due to lack of support. As such, community decided to build their capacity to be self reliance.

The aim of the project was to: Empowering 50 women in traditional authority Nkanda in

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 80 marginalized women of under group village headman Ntonya, Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje, applied for Tailoring and Designing training.
- 50 marginalized women were selected and enrolled on a three months training.
- 48 targeted women completed the training.
- 50 marginalized women undergo for business management training.
- 48 joined village and savings loans and increase their savings by 45% within six months.
- Out of the total trained, 75% started businesses with the use of funds obtained from Village and Savings Loans

Mulanje by equipping them with tools to become self-reliant through tailoring skills, access to finance, health information and support.



Vocational Skills Training in progress



After business management Training



Empowering women to develop the spirit of saving and access to capital for small businesses through village and savings loans (VSL)

3. Support For Her Education

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Four Primary Schools were reached.
- 2500 marginalized children were reached with 80% being adolescence girls.
- 1200 adolescence girls in upper classes starting from standard 5 up to secondary school received sexual reproductive health and rights information.
- 80 adolescence girls and 20 boys at risk of dropping out of school were supported with school uniforms and writing materials.
- 180 adolescence girls received reusable sanitary pads.
- All targeted schools report the reduction in absentism and dropping out among targeted beneficiaries.
- Health Service provider report an increase in the use of SRH services including family planning products.



Keeping girls in a school for extra year yields better in their later life development. They acquire skills and abilities to gain independency. According to 2030 Malawi Agenda for Sustainable Development and Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, it gives special emphasis on promoting girls education. Support For Her Education seeks to address barriers for girls to access education both primary and secondary. In the last twelve months, CHICOSUDO has been working with four Primary Schools in Mulanje, namely: Sukayakwe, Samson and Pasani under traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. Over twelve months, CHICOSUDO reached 1400 adolescence girls by addressing the following issues that lead to dropping outs and absent seem among girls.

Shortage of furniture, poor menstrual hygiene management practices and high level of poverty at household level.



Removing barriers that hinder girls access to education through the provision of school supplies and school uniforms.



Removing barriers that hinder girls access to education through the provision of reusable sanitary pads packs.

SUCCESS STORIES

Success story 1. Nelia Kabambe.



As the basic tailoring training goes to an end, survivors of child marriages are having hope of being self-reliance by the use of gained knowledge and skills. In end October, CHICOSUDO conducted assessment so that it should know what they have learnt and how lessons can lead to confidence in their life and being able to prepare for self-reliance. Below is the story of the girl aged 17.

Her name is Nelia Kabambe from Sabuni village under group village headman Ntonya Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. Nelia is 17 years old with one child and she lives with a grandmother. Her parents died five years ago. Nelia had been living in poverty, as such, she dropped out of school and got married to another business man to be the second wife. In marriage, life was so hard until CHICOSUDO with Ntonya Community Based Organization withdrawn her during End Child Marriage Now Campaign in 2019. Life was hard with no support while living with her grandmother. She had no option rather than working for casual work to earn a living, taking care for her child and the poor grandmother. Until CHICOSUDO introduced Basic Tailoring training. Nelia used to come at the center and learn with her child. Despite that, she worked extra harder to successfully attain required knowledge and skills. As the pilot project come to an end, Nelia is having confidence of start working or start her own business or group business if she finds capital.

Success Story 2. Mirrium Iqra



This is Mirrium Iqra from Mchelera village under group village headman Ntonya, Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. Mirrium is a 23 years old and is having 1 child. She lives with her grand mother. She completed form secondary school form four in 2019 but failing to go for higher education due to high levels of poverty since she lives with her grand mother.

Soon after being trained on Business Management in November 2021, she took the loan from their Village and Savings and Loan Group amounting to MK20,000 to start her own business of selling Tomatoes. She used the knowledge gained to conduct business gap. She realized that Tomato is required by every household each day. But availability is low in the community. People travel to the far market up to 1 to 2 Kilometers to search for Tomato. She also researched for where to order and costs per Bucket. After having that information at hand recorded in her note book, she got the loan from Village and Savings Loans group amounting to MWK 20,000. She sale at her home and min local market Mwanakhu. She started her business end week of November. By 15th when CHICOSUDO staff and stakeholders conduct random visits, she reported that through that business she

managed to buy 100 Kgs of Maize at a cost of 10 USD each and being able to start paying back the loan during their weekly meetings.

Success story 3. Edina Mpando



Edina Mpando is a 21 year old young women with one child named Prince. Edina lives in Mchathu Village under group village headman Ntonya in Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. She dropt out of school while she was in form 2 due to early pregnancy.

After being trained in business management to also identify the business opportunity in her community where she found that soap for washing is a challenge. Then she decided to take the loan and start selling Surf. Her business strategy was to sale on loan. She pack in small package that is sold at 0.20 to be paid per week. This business has enabled her to beat other traders in groceries around just because she tried to meet the low costs in the community. She is able to sell 20kgs of Surf within the week and make a profit of MWK4,000 to MWK6,000 per week. Through this business she is able to get food for her family.

PARTNERS

CHICOSUDO APPRICIATE FOR THE GENERIOUS SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS

Funding partners



ROCKFLOWER

LUSH

FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS



NETWORKING PARTNERS

GBV Prevention Network



PLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

According to the achievements, progress, lessons learnt and challenges encountered, CHICOSUDO has lined up the following activities for 2021/2022.

- Continue supporting early education for the under five years children through community based child care centers.
- Increase access to education among marginalized girls.
- To promote livelihood for local farmers by strengthening their capacities to increase crop and animal production in the era of climate change.
- Economic empowerment for of marginalized women through vocational skills training and access financial services.
- Promoting access to health services among children with disabilities through rehabilitation services.
- To promote and protect the rights of marginalized groups include: women, girls, children, people living with HIV and AIDS, elderly and people with physical disabilities.

CONCLUSION

The organizations plan of 2021/2022 was achieved; Community structures were empowered through capacity building which made them to work hand in hand with the organizations in achieving their own community needs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHICOSUDO would like to acknowledge the following stakeholders for their support towards achieving the 2021/2022 activities.

1. Board of trustees of Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organisation.
2. Senior Chief kapeni
3. Senior group Village headman Manesi Kapeni.
4. Senior group Village headman Manesikapeni Community structure leaders.
5. Community beneficiaries.
6. Other Government and NGOs