



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



2022

We aim at ending poverty, among marginalized women and children in Malawi by addressing hunger, diseases, injustice and illiteracy through information dissemination, empowerment, support and advocacy.





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Introduction From Executive Director /Founder

Since our journey started in 2005, we have been growing and seeing many people being transformed. Humble beginning in the year 2022 to 2023 June, it has created to opportunity to do our core business in new approaches. We have ended this year with cerebrating new enterprises established by our trained young women, at the same time, we have bring the light in the hearts of children with disabilities by increasing access to physiotherapy services for free and nutrition food.

Though our focus has been on women empowerment, but we have tried to do things outside box. We decided of thinking the needs of parents of children with disabilities. So we covered that also. On women empowerment, we expanded from 2021 piloting where we trained 50 survivors of child marriages. The year ending, extra 70 women were trained in vocational skills training making the number to be 100. Out of that, 80 were given loans through loan revolving funds. Out of that number, 50 enterprises have been established. We continued with children with disabilities, we started rehabilitation services at Chitani Rehabilitation Center at Manja village with five children, but by June, 34 children enrolled at the center. Other children who had miner problems have been addressed, some have started crowing, seating and stretching their hands.

As we are finishing this year, we still keep on looking for the better future, where many people especially women and children will continue benefiting. For this to happen, the team of dedicated staff and volunteers played a greater role to bring this change. I would like to appreciate for their efforts. As we are going to start new year, I edge them to continue reaching the poor people in Malawi.



What we do

Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organization (CHICOSUDO) is a Malawian nongovernmental organization which was founded in 2004 and got registered with Malawi Government under Trustees Incorporation Act in 2007. It has been running as a Community Based Organization since its establishment until 2012 when it changed its status from CBO to local non governmental organization. CHICOSUDO was founded group village headman Kumponda, Senior Chief Kapeni in Blantyre. It expanded from eighteen villages to 140 villages in 2012. Later in 2017, it expanded its programs to another district, Mulanje. By 2022, CHICOSUDO got registered with NGO Board of Malawi.

Despite the progress made in reducing poverty in the country, more than 50% of Malawian are in poverty. In two districts, Blantyre and Mulanje, vast community members live under poverty line of less than a dollar per day. With this, the most vulnerable people remain women and children. Poverty is major driving factor of different abuse among women and children, girls in particular. 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. In both districts, 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.

Therefore, CHICOSUDO exist to uplift the lives of women and children by using community-led approaches. We are guided by the following **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

Our achievement :

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:

- Through Humanitarian Aid to People in Need, CHICOSUDO supported 6,703 (4,479 children and 2,224 adults) with clothes, school learning materials, desks and play material, vocation skills trainings and
- 35 children with disabilities accessed physiotherapy services through CHITANI Rehabilitation Center, 40 families received relief support and 90 people were fed through Christmas Party.
- Through partnership with CorpsAfrica, CHICOSUDO reached 5,500 community members and children in Mulanje with information with school mentorship for primary school children, sexual reproductive health information, tree planting and teach girls on how to make reusable sanitary pads.
- 100 marginalized women of were trained in tailoring, salon 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 and loan revolving fund. At least 50 enterprises were established.



Projects Highlights: Women Empowerment

CHICOSUDO has been implementing the second phase of the project on "Women Empowerment Through Vocational Skills and Access To Financial Services" with support from Korea Hope Foundation (KHF). The project run from 1st June 2022 to 31th May 2023. The overall goal of the project is to Empower 100 marginalized women of 15 to 25 years old in traditional authority Nkanda in Mulanje by equipping them with tools to become self-reliant through tailoring/design, Saloon/Cosmetics, business formation and Management and access to financial services.

CHICOSUDO has successfully implemented the planned activities and the following are the achievements: 100 marginalized women benefited from various components of the project. 20 women received packages of training in tailoring and designing, 30 women in hair dressing while all 100 marginalized women were trained in business management in addition to Village and Savings loans training. Out of 100 marginalized women, 78 accessed loans to start their enterprises through loan revolving fund scheme as a results, 50 enterprises were established. Out of that, 40 enterprises were own a personal business and 10 are owned by the group of individuals. All 78 marginalized women from 50 enterprises received business mentorship. Lastly, all beneficiaries received sexual and reproductive health information and services.

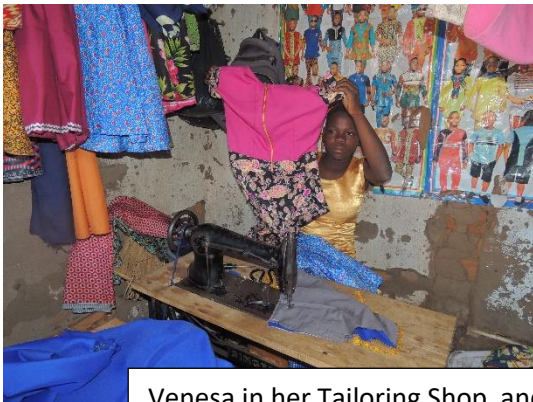
The targeted women were selected according to specific criteria that included minimum age of 18 year-old, survivors of child marriages, victims of gender based violence, disadvantaged women, mostly, these who fail to go further with education due to poverty. We also included those who have already doing some businesses or having knowledge in business.

Success stories



Regina Otomani and Joya Bizwek from Munyere village. They are both 25 years old and single mothers. They work under Ntonya Community Based Organization as members. They had no work to do before they trained in Tailoring and Design. They are both having five children of whom four are in Primary School. They were struggling to feed them and provide school needs. After being trained, they got a loan. After realizing that it was hard to find customers as they are new, they used lessons learnt during business management training. They partner with Sukayakwe Primary School. The school management team introduced their request to parents

that all who want to buy school uniforms for their children, they should do so through the school. Through this initiative, they are able to have more customers from the school. Currently, they are able to generate more incomes.



Venesa in her Tailoring Shop and at the Mwanakhu Market (Bridget- CHICOSUDO)

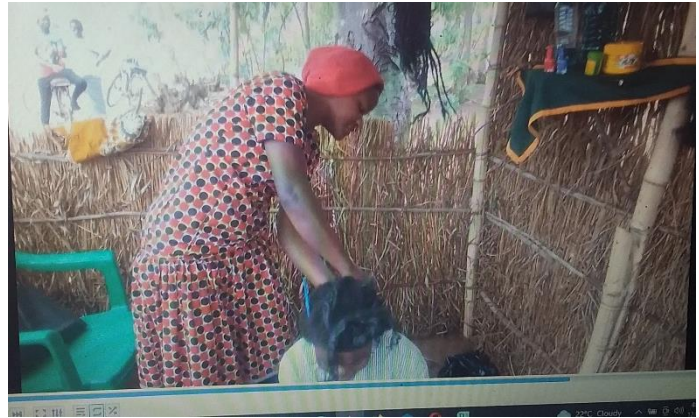
Vena Solongwe a 22 year old woman from Sande village is a mother of one child. After starting a Tailoring business, she realized that some season of the year, Tailoring business do not provide much profits, as a results, she decided of creating another business of Baking Makolon (Bans). Through this ideas, she is able to feed the family of six people. She is taken as responsible person in the family. Some days, she employe other boys to sell her Baking Bans. Currently she is able to generate incomes per every week. She said *“business management training helped me a lot, I do see opportunities in my community than before.”*



IDES NANESS AT her new Shop photo by Bridget – CHICOSUDO

Ides Nanes a non educated women, a mother of eight children, a single mother, she is running her Tailoring Business in her village. Ides' life has now changed from bagging to responsible mother. Before this, she has been divorced two times and left with uncared kids. It was hard for her to find food to feed her children. Through the loan she got from CHICOSUDO, she able to generate not less than MK15,000 per week. She is becoming well known in her village just

because she used to be fast and tell the customers truth when to collect their clothes. Ides, is using business management skills to attract and maintain customers in her village.



After learning, Hair Dressing, Tailoring and Design and business management and access to loan, four young women from Nkhuku village joined to be 4 (Cina , Daf Gogoda, Fra Chavula and Mag Namaso are all 24. They started three businesses Saloon, Tailoring and Nusery School. The new business has come after identifying the gap in their community. Many children were failing in junior classes of standard one to five, then after doing research with parents, they identified that, many children who used to pass, they started through Nursary, then they mobilized community members and discuss with them about their ideas. Now the traditional leaders authorized them to start and use one of the Church as a place.



Pilan Richad and Joy Bizweck from Nasiyaya village Joined together to run one business. They all dropt out of school while in standard six. They have two children each. Before joining CHICOSUDO they were depending on their husbands in everything. But it wasn't enough. They couldn't find the way to get out of poverty. This is why after getting an opportunity of learning sewing skills

and have access to loans enabled them gain skills and knowledge to be independent. They were both in the first cohort. 'We plan to expand our business by producing more clothes especially for children and women so that we can end poverty'. Now we are able to support our husbands in purchasing food and other important needs at home. Our husbands respect us than before. We are also becoming famous in our villages. This makes us feel happy. Thank you CHICOSUDO and Korea Hope Foundation.



Emy Jailos a 25 years old with three children living at Munyere village established recycling cloth business after being trained in Tailoring, Design, business management and access to loan. Before, she was struggling to get food to care for her three children just because since she depended on her husband before they divorced in 2019. As a single mother life was so hard and hopeless until she applied and being selected by CHICOSUDO team to be in first cohort of vocation skills training and business management. Her little grew when she got a loan to start her business. She used to purchase second hand clothes and produced other clothes as recycling. Out of this this business she managed to employ one young man to support her in selling recycled clothes to other markets.



Veron Thebule a 22 years old with two children and is single mother from Ntonya village dropped out of school while in standard 7 due to lack school support since her parent are poor. Before joining CHICOSUDO, she even lacked of MK200/ (15 USA Cent) to buy soap to clean her clothes and for young children. But she had ambitions of being independent one day. After attending business management training and access to loan, she decided to expand her farming and fish selling business. She invested some part of the loan into farming of Tomatoes and Maize and in home business of buying and selling Fish. The aim of starting home fish business was to use the profits for buying small households needs as she waits for crop maturity. She takes an advantage in the availability of flowing water from Chole Hills that flows year round through her garden.

Through her Fish business, she managed to buy clothes for her children and school needs with generated profits. Through her business, she is able to employ other people to help her in farming.

Project highlights: Humanitarian Aid For People in need

CHICOSUDO received a Container of goods from Crossroads Foundation through the project on Humanitarian Aid For People in Need in July 2022. Through the project, the following were impacts

1. Creating conducive learning environment for children especially girls in Primary School. With school desks and chairs, children in two Primary Schools, Anglican Primary School in Blantyre and Sukayakwe Full Primary School in Mulanje have benefited. Especially girls are able to participate fully in all lessons.
2. Recreation of vocation skills training centre in both Blantyre and Mulanje. With Sewing Machines, CHICOSUDO is able to train 20 youth in every three months at its headquarters in Blantyre. The same with Computers, CHICOSUDO is able to reach 20 youth per three months. Lastly, with availability of musical instruments, CHICOSUDO is able to start music training to youth at it's centre.
3. Improve service delivery at institution level. Access to Computers, Chairs, clothes and learning materials for both Primary Schools and Early Childhood Development, all these have improved the provision of services of the organization to its beneficiaries. As such, CHICOSUDO has really improved it's service delivery.
4. Number of people reached: 6703 Children: Boys 1589, Girls 2890 Adults : Men 879 Women 1345



Sukayakwe Primary School before donation



Sukayakwe Primary School after donation



Kumponda Community Based Child Care Centers



Bright Future Community Based Child Care Center

Projects Highlights: Supporting Children with Disabilities

In the past 12 months, CHICOSUDO in partnership with Bankole family, the Pastor's for Abiding Love International Fellowship from the USA and the community under group village headman, Kumponda, Manes Kapeni and Mpasuka under Senior Chief Kapeni implemented the project on "Supporting Children with Disabilities. Through this project, CHICOSUDO reached 35 children with disabilities through access to physiotherapy services, 90 people through food and other relief items. Physiotherapy services at Manja village was established to address issues of long distances to access Physiotherapy services and high level of poverty that hinder their access in Blantyre City and other parts of Blantyre rural.

The main goal of this program is to improve the lives of children with disabilities in Blantyre rural by ensuring access to medical care, spiritual, relief, recreational, educational and empower parents and guardians to be self reliance through skills and support.

- There is an improvement in physical outcomes of physiotherapy
- Two children Costance Kapatuka and . Costance was failing to seat on his own. His 14 weeks of visiting the rehabilitation Center, he is able to seat on his chair. Treva Lonard is a five years old. He used to crow before participating into the program. After 9 weeks of his participation, he is standing and walk slowly.
- Food distributed during the growing crop season, have enabled parents have time to participate in farming activities. Despite lack of access to farm inputs shortage of food during farming season lead to food insecurity among families with disabilities. Strengthened in spiritually.
- Love between parents and their children with disabilities has been strengthened. Through door to door visits, parents who had negative altitudes with their disabled children, are now showing changes in taking care of their children just because they are now seeing that they are not alone.



Home Visits



Distribution of relief Items



Physiotherapy in Progress



Vocational Skills for parents

Project Highlights: Partnership with CorpsAfrica

By June 2023, marked the second year of partnership with CorpsAfrica under volunteer placement. The last twelve months marked the another year of greater impacts through volunteer Hope Ngondo. Through this partnership, three projects have been implemented which have benefited people under Group Village Headman Ntonya in Mulanje district. The following are the projects:

Environmental conservation through tree planning, over 1000 trees of different species were planted at Chole Hill and some households. The trees are of different species.

Promoting menstrual hygiene among adolescence girls at Sukayakwe Primary School. Through this project, Hope reached 50 adolescence girls with sexual and reproductive health information, sexual and reusable sanitary pads by using local available materials.

Renovation of Under Five Clinic at Sukayakwe Primary School under group village headman Ntonya. The facility will serve over 3,000 under five children. At the same time, the Clinic will be used for multipurpose for other health service since the Health Center is very far.



Mwayiwathu CBO/ CHISUDO Vocation Skills Training Center at group village Head Ntonya Mulanje – *Bridget CHICOSUDO*



Sukayakwe Under Five Clinic - *Hope CorpsAfrica*



Tree planting at Chole Hills – *Patricia CorpsAfrica*



Students at Sukayakwe Primary School, learning how to make Reusable Sanitary Pad – *Hope CorpsAfrica*

Financial Report

Over the 12 months, CHICOSUDO the following were incomes,

Income sources		MWK
Donors	Korea Hope Foundation	20,722,122.00
	Bankole Family	9,600,800.00
	Crossroads Foundation	7,678,600.00
	CorpsAfrica	5,670,000.00
Basket funding	Organization contribution	5,500,000.00
	Total	49,171,522.00

Partners



Cross Roads Foundation

Based on experience gained in the last twelve months, July 2022 to June 2023, CHICOSUDO developed a strategic direction for its sectors as follows:

- Empower 500 marginalized women and youth of 15 to 30 years through vocational skills trainings, entrepreneurship and access to financial services by 2025.
- Promote and protect the rights of children
- Ensure that adolescence girls and boys remain in schools by addressing barriers to access education through different approaches.
- Increase access to clean and potable water through gravity-fed
- Ensure access to health information and services among children with disabilities.
- Strengthen the capacity of CHICOSUDO team to effectively implement the designed activities, monitor and evaluate and report.
- Increase media presence of CHICOSUDO activities.