



**PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT TO UNDER-
PRIVILEGED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN
CHAMBE, MULANJE DISTRICT, MALAWI**

**IMPLEMENTED BY
CHAMBE CENTRE FOR DIVINE MERCY**

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IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION : CHAMBE CENTRE FOR DIVINE MERCY

PHYSICAL LOCATION : Chonde, Mulanje, Malawi

LEGAL STATUS : Non-Governmental Organization (**Incorporated under Certificate No. TR/INC 7361**); Registered with Non-Governmental Board under Certificate **No: NGO/L/17/017**

PROPOSED PROJECT TITLE : SUPPORT TO UNDER-PRIVILEGED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN CHAMBE, MULANJE

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES : 20 Children

AGE GROUP : Primary school going ages

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PROJECT COORDINATOR

ACRONYMS

AIDS - ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

CCDM - CHAMBE CENTRE FOR DIVINE MERCY

GOVERNMENT- MALAWI GOVERNMENT

HIV - HUMAN IMMUNAL VIRUS

NGO BOARD- NON-GOVERNMENTAL BOARD OF MALAWI

UN - UNITED NATIONS

UVCs - UNDER-PRIVILEGED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed project, “Support for UVCs at Chambe, Mulanje District, Malawi”, is in line with the objects of the Constitution of the Registered Trustees of CCDM, which is a registered charity in Malawi. The project is in line with Government’s development activities falling within the UN Sustainable Development Goals Numbers one to four, which deal with poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being and, quality education. The Malawi Government has made all efforts through the Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare and Disability, to champion the implementation of the UN Sustainable Goals. However, the UN Human Development Report 2016, acknowledges that if human development for everyone is to be realized, there is need to recognize that the most disadvantaged groups in society, such as rural populations, need extra assistance to overcome discrimination. This project will complement these efforts by especially addressing problems of UVCs in the Chambe area of Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje District, in terms of provision of food, health, education and counselling needs due to the AIDS scourge and high levels of poverty and illiteracy in this area. These challenges have worsened the living conditions of UVCs, including orphans, in an area which is very rural and remote with poor basic infrastructure. However, the major goal of this project is to provide basic health care and material support to the selected children while helping them to get an opportunity for early childhood education in order for them to grow into reliable members of the communities they live in and, the country as a whole.

1.0. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Malawi, known as the warm heart of Africa, is a home to 6.8 million children (51 percent of the total population) and presents a number of opportunities and challenges for its youngest citizens and their families. The prospects for child survival has improved over the past few years due to improved economic management, stable macroeconomic conditions and increasing agricultural production, which are helping to reduce poverty and hunger. Malawi's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate seems to have stabilized at 12 per cent.

But on the down side, poverty continues to be chronic and widespread, and the country's development is thwarted by a fast growing population, limited arable land, cyclical natural disasters, food insecurity, malnutrition, HIV and AIDS, and a high incidence of malaria, one of the leading killers of children under the age of five. According to the UN Human Development Report of 2015 on Malawi, one in eight children are still dying due to malnutrition levels.

Since the early 1990s, Malawi, a landlocked and predominantly agricultural and rural nation, has ranked amongst the worlds' 20 least developed countries on the Human Development index. More than half of the population lives on less than USD \$0.32 cents a day. This includes around five million children living in serious poverty conditions. Moreover, one in every five Malawians lives in dire poverty or on less than USD \$0.20 cents a day and cannot afford to feed themselves. Poverty hits children the hardest and threatens their most basic rights to survival, health and nutrition, education, participation and protection from harm and exploitation. It is against this background, that CCDM considered it appropriate and timely to come up with this project in Mulanje District, Malawi, where illiteracy, poverty levels, hunger remain very high among children.

2.0 THE PROBLEM OF UVCS

In Malawi, due to poverty levels, malnutrition is devastating and the single biggest contributor to child death. There has unfortunately been no change in children's nutritional status since 1992 and malnutrition rates remain very high. Around 46 percent of the children under five are stunted, 21 percent are underweight, and four percent are wasted. Micronutrient deficiencies are common. The ministry of Health's Micronutrient Survey (2001) revealed that 60 percent of children under five and 57 percent of non-pregnant women had sub-clinical Vitamin A Deficiency. Vitamin A

deficiency lowers children's immunity and reduces their chances of surviving a serious illness. The causes of Malnutrition in children include poor childcare practices, diets lacking in calories and nutrients, frequent bouts of disease and chronically under-nourished pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The impact of HIV/AIDS has affected all levels of society but nowhere has it been more devastating than on children. Of the one million orphans in Malawi, over 500,000 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Without parental protection, these children are exposed to neglect, abuse and exploitation and lack access to basic necessities and services. Orphaned children also suffer immense emotional turmoil, which leaves deep psychological scars. Worse still, very young children, including the girl children, are involved in commercial sex as a means of survival. The male children practice robbery, theft, smoking and alcoholism, just to mention a few. These immoral behaviours have grave consequences on their health and lives and on the lives of their families and those of fellow community members.

3.0. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

This project is a necessity in the area we have identified because Chambe area, which is at the foot of Mulanje Mountain, is very rural and under-developed. There is real evidence that one of the big challenges of malnutrition and HIV/AIDS scourge has created for Malawi, is the big number of orphans left behind. This situation is aggravated by the prevalence of poverty and higher illiteracy levels in the area. The UVCs and their needs have over the years overwhelmed those who have tried to assist them. Most times they are left in the hands of relatives who are struggling to keep their own immediate families from starving.

The project is, therefore, aimed at reducing this burden by providing, on a small scale, basic necessities for the UVCs in order to prepare them for primary school.

With the help of volunteers from the communities within the project catchment area and other well-wishers, CCDM will run a feeding program and day care in a communal and multi-faith based environment. Further, children are to receive quality care and holistic development through the basic support given to their care takers within their homes. The project wants to foster love and give hope to the children who are Malawi's future.

This Children's project will be a community-based response to the needs of UVCs in traditional authority Nkanda, in Mulanje district. The Programme will entirely depend on volunteers within and around the villages and other sponsors. In order to continue its work, the project will from time to time require on-going support from generous donors. Funds will be needed to cover costs such as administrative costs, volunteer training and support, feeding programme, emergency relief, basic drug supply and children excursions. The project will identify a similar project that will act as a model and, if possible, do a twinning arrangement in order to learn and share best practices. From time to time, the project will source donations in every form, including pre-school education materials, toys, clothes, blankets and food items that can be distributed to the children.

The key challenges faced by the Chambe communities are:

- Parents/guardians do lack resources to make contribution towards the general welfare and education of UVCs.
- School going UVCs do lack the required scholastic and training materials
- Most children cannot access proper nutrition which leads to poor health and poor mental growth.
- Some of them are HIV positive and chronically sick and in need of constant care.
- CCDM lacks enough resources and finances to fully support the project activities.

This project will, therefore, help to arrest these adverse situations by providing the basic necessities for the UVCs on a sustainable basis.

4.0. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Being a Community based project, CCDM aims at providing morning meals mainly in form of porridge and lunch for the primary school going ages as well as early childhood education initiatives in form of pre-school learning activities in order to prepare some of the UVCs for primary school. The project will further provide basic materials such as clothes, beddings, essential drugs and food rations to the UVCs. Part of the land acquired for the project will be cultivated to grow plants such as maize, legumes and vegetables to support the nutritional aspects. There will also be an aspect of animal husbandry in form of chickens and goats rearing to supplement the food rations. Structures will also be erected which will be used as a child care and counselling facility.

5.0. PROJECT MISSION:

Provision of high quality and holistic childcare for improved quality of life.

6.0. PROJECT GOAL:

To support early childhood development to UVCs in order to improve their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

7.0. PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To promote spiritual growth, good educational foundation, health care and support services to UVCs.
- To promote volunteer work, community participation and ownership among the concerned communities
- To help UVCs access good nutrition and health care, scholastic materials and other resources.
- To promote cohesion, collective responsibility and love at family, community and societal levels for equal opportunities and rights for all.

8.0. PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

- Undertake a comprehensive feeding and day care programme for the UVCs
- Organize meetings with selected representatives of the communities and form a project committee to support child care activities
- Carry out sensitization meetings with all relevant stakeholders
- Undertake a needs assessment in order to identify specific needs of the beneficiaries within their community
- Identify UVCs and compile their profiles
- Identify volunteers and train them on child care activities
- Undertake preliminary processes for the establishment of CCDM under Malawi laws
- Provide food items, basic drugs and other materials to UVCs in their homes

- Support with school fees in specific circumstances
- Erect basic structures for day care and learning activities
- Create a forum for the UVCs and the community members to meet and share ideas on other projects.

9.0. TARGET GROUP:

The main target group are the UVCs mostly affected by HIV/AIDS, hunger and poverty in the project area. Initially, the project is targeting a total of 20 UVCs with a possibility of increasing the numbers in future once the structures are fully erected and, funds permitting. The project will also emphasize on support to the girl-child.

10.0. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

This project will cover the villages in Chambe area within traditional authority Nkanda in Mulanje District.

11.0. EXPECTED OUT-COME:

- 20 UVCs shall access pre-school support and development.
- 20 UVCs shall access scholastic and training materials.
- 20 UVCs shall access nutritional foods on daily basis during daytime.
- 20 UVCs shall access basic primary health care and material support.
- Guardians of the UVCs shall be assisted with food, material, moral and spiritual support
- The communities within the project area shall become more responsible and development-oriented in addressing issues of HIV/AIDS, poverty, illiteracy and the plight of the UVCs.

12.0. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

The project will be implemented by the CCDM through its administrative offices at Chonde, Mulanje. Land for the project has already been purchased. An interim project committee comprising

the Project Coordinator and five other community representatives from Chambe has been put in place. With the availability of resources, the project shall be fully operational within six months and, thereafter, depending on the agreed donor timeframe.

13.0. SELECTION CRITERIA:

- HIV/AIDS orphaned children living with old/weak grand parents and guardians.
- Children from families whose surviving parents are weak and sickly of HIV/AIDS.
- Children from very poor households and child headed households.

14.0. EVALUATION AND MONITORING:

The project will be subject to evaluation on a quarterly basis. However, day to day monitoring of its progress will be carried out by the project steering committee through the project coordinator in consultation with the UVCs and the beneficiary community members to ensure the attainment of the project goal. Quarterly reports will be sent to the donor/sponsor by the Project Director in line with agreements for transparency and accountability. All the necessary information and photographs concerning the UVCs will be available on request.

15.0. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY:

Although the activities of CCDM have been carried out by well-wishers on a voluntary basis, since 2014, using the meagre resources solicited by the CCDM's Trustees, once the project takes off, the beneficiary community members will be mobilized and sensitized about the need to contribute positively towards the welfare of the UVCs through volunteer work. Government and other local and international organizations shall be sensitized about the project for possible support and partnership. Through its website, CCDM will provide all relevant information that may be used to solicit donations, both financially and materially from would-be sponsors.
