

ANNUAL REPORT FOR DISABILITY FUND 2023

BACKGROUND

The disability transport fund programme is aimed at helping disabled Children from 0-18 years of age. The programme is so important because it helps to access health care at the Clinics where they are referred to, which otherwise wouldn't happen.

This initiative started way back in 2019 with the help of well-wishers from the UK. The Clients are assessed in the first place at the District Hospital in Salima. If one has a condition that needs a special Doctor they are sent to other bigger Hospitals where the procedures required are undertaken.

All transport money for child and guardian is covered. The exercise happens typically twice a year. Malawi Council for Handicapped (MACOHA) advise Starfish that assistance is needed to provide transport money for some of the listed Children going to various Clinics.

MACOHA have Field Workers who help Starfish with information of the Child on the list of transport assistance, in the sense that they co-ordinate with Guardians reminding about dates of when to go the Clinic and how to prepare for their trip. Starfish also manage to visit the Children with the help of the Field Workers. There are seven Field Workers in total for MACOHA.



Hamida is one of the Children who have been assisted in the programme.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

In short, I can say that there is progress in the disability programme since we started in 2019. Many underprivileged Clients have been assisted in their condition and many have gone back to school where it was difficult previously.

THE LIST OF CLIENTS WHO RECEIVED TRANSPORT MONEY IN THE YEAR 2023.

name	age	sex	village	TA	Amount	venue
Hamida Mbaluku	12 yrs	female	M'manga	Pemba	30,000	Blantyre Beit cure
Enifa Anold	6 yrs	female	Gwengwe	Kalonga	30,000	Blantyre Beit cure
Aisha Subeli	13 yrs	female	Simaewa	Kalonga	60,000	Blantyre Beit cure
Kondwani Chiponde	13yrs	male	Mowa	Chisamba	60,000	Blantyre Beit cure
Usumani Bubakala	2 yrs	male	Chimbalu	Mwanza	12000	Lilongwe KCH
Francis Wyson	5 yrs	male	Nyanda	Mwanza	12000	Lilongwe KCH
Grace Banda	11 yrs	female	Chibengwe	Makanjira	60,000	Blantyre Beit cure

The total which was spent for the programme is 264,000 Kwacha.

In addition to this, funds were also used to transport 12 children with disabilities to and from the Everland special needs education centre in 2023, while at Hope Clinic 10 children, with medical staff carers, used the minibus transport for special needs care.

This means that the programme has helped 29 children in 2023.

NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED

The Disability transport fund programme majors in on providing money to transport the Clients to the Hospitals where they are referred to go. Sometimes we provide shoes for those who are going for a procedure called "shoe raise" whereby they have a condition that one leg is shorter than the other. We have done this twice to one Child who is in the GTOC programme, Jeff Imani.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES.

The common challenges in the programme were clients forgetting their date to visit the Hospital and others fearing to go with their Children to Clinics thinking that their Kids will die in the process.

Now that many Parents have gone to Hospitals and were able to tell the other parents of how their Children have improved, they too have made decisions to go with their Kids. And again the issue of forgetting dates has changed because the MACOHA Field workers are reminded to keep on telling the Clients on the dates to Visit the Clinic.

THE DIFFERENCE THE PROGRAMME MAKING IN THE LIFE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

Here are two stories to narrate some of the impact the work is producing,

ENIFA ANOLD.

Enifa Anold is a girl aged five years old. She lives in Gwengwe Village TA Kalonga ,Salima.

She was given assistance of transport money to go to Beit cure in Blantyre by Starfish for her to be reviewed on her condition of failure to walk due to knee joint problems (osteogenesis).

Back from the Hospital, the journey was good but the surgery didn't take place because the Doctors observed that her bones are strong enough that an operation of such a type was not needed to allow her to walk without difficulty.

What the Doctors did was to advise the Parents to help the girl to be doing physio and different exercises. The parents commented saying that Enifa is able to walk short distances, much more than before. She is also able to do simple household chores such as washing plates and drawing water from the borehole. At first, she was feeling pain when she tried to walk to draw water, but now she is able to do all this without pain. She is happy with the new experience.

The mother is thankful to Starfish for help given to her child and Starfish should continue with the programme. She said the disability was a barrier to her Child going to School, but with this help she will not have this barrier.



Enifa before she went to the Hospital was not able stand and walk properly.



Enifa after visiting the clinic, she is now able to stand and walk while she holds her knees, this is better than before said the mother.

FRANCES WYSON

France Wyson is a 6-year-old boy from Nyanda Village TA Mwanza in Salima. He was referred to go to Lilongwe as, he had a burnt contracture, and he was taken to the Clinic to release it. He is feeling better than before.

However, because of itching he was scratching the arm and the wound resurfaced and further assessment shows that he needs to go for review, but the condition is not as it was before he went to the Clinic. His mother is appreciating so much the support Starfish rendered to her Child to go to the Hospital to access medical care and she is urging Starfish to keep on doing the good work of helping the under privileged.



Frances with burn contracture before he went the Hospital in Lilongwe



Frances after he visited the Clinic. The burns are better than before, looking at his hand.

NOTE: The next assessment to identify other Clients to be assisted will done in March 2024. After this exercise is when the budget will be submitted.