

DISABILITY FUND MID YEAR REPORT FOR 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Disability Fund commenced in 2019. It is a Starfish programme in conjunction with the Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACOHA) - a Governmental agency that cares for people with disabilities. The programme targets in particular Children with disabilities from 1-day old to 18 years.

The work is so important because it provides transport for children to attend referral hospitals. This transport is provided by Starfish.

MACOHA identifies children that need help and refers them to hospitals where they receive treatment. This is made possible by the essential transport that Starfish provides. When the children are back from receiving treatment a follow-up is done to appreciate how the doctors have assisted them and to evaluate how they are feeling.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

This year we have not done anything because MACOHA did not conduct the assessment programme. This is due to a delay in Government funding. We have been advised that the assessment and Government selection will be done from 23rd – 25th July. Clearly there will be a big backlog of cases requiring treatment and the money we have kept in the committed fund will go towards this.

THE DIFFERENCE THAT WE ARE MAKING

The programme is making a huge difference as we have assisted more than 50 Children. There was no programme during the years 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid 19 epidemic.

Many parents are now interested in accompanying their children to the health facilities. This was not always the case. Some parents had a negative attitude regarding surgery on children with disabilities. Their great concern was that their children would die at the Hospital during treatment. They have now seen how many children have been assisted and negative attitudes have been replaced by Hope.

JEOFF IMANI.

Jeoff Imani is 11 years old and he is a student at Ngolowindo Primary School, Jeoff is one of the beneficiaries of the programme.



“After the assessment by MACOHA I was given transport money by Starfish to go to Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, where I was referred from Salima District hospital, so that they can raise my shoe of one side of my leg as one of my legs is shorter than the other.” Said Jeoff

Currently Jeoff does not have any difficulties in walking this is because of the assistance he got from Starfish and MACOHA.

Jeoff Imani says that he is now walking better than before.

YAHAYA KANKUWIRA

*“I am **Yahaya Kankuwira** aged 17, I come from traditional authority Kambalame in Salima District, and I am one of the people who has been assisted by the Disability Programme.*

I was involved in a fire accident and one side of my neck was burnt, this made contractures under my neck and for me to turn I had to turn the whole body. I tried to visit different hospitals before but it was no avail - but since I visited Beit Cure, after Starfish supported me with transport money, my life is happy.

This is because I am now able to turn my neck without difficulties as it was before. May the good Lord bless you so that other children are going access your services.

Thank you, Starfish.”

shared Yahaya.

