

## GLAD TIDING ORPHAN CARE (GTOC) REPORT FOR JULY 2021

### Orphans and Venerable Children (OVC's)

GTOC's effort of caring for orphans and other vulnerable children in their households is progressing. Holistic support is rendered to them : food, clothes, education and medicine. Regarding health and sanitation, key workers monitor the quality given by guardians and report any concerns to the GTOC manager who then responds with an agreed action plan.

Generally at the end and beginning of the year most households experience shortage of food resulting in OVCs suffering. Therefore, on 19<sup>th</sup> February this year, as part of our ongoing support, 190 children from 143 households received 20 kgs of maize per head. The distribution of maize substantially lessened the hunger situation in the community.



*Women in the community receiving maize*

### Nursery Education

Schools were opened on 4<sup>th</sup> January but after two weeks of learning, they were closed again due to the worsening of the pandemic. Schools were later reopened on 22<sup>nd</sup> February when protective measures were put in place by the Ministry of Health and schools are now in the second term which started on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Every child is encouraged to wash hands frequently with soap and avoid touching eyes and their noses.

## Nursery Schools 2021 Academic Year is As Follows

| Name of Nursery | 3 Years    |            | 4 Years   |           | 5 Years   |           | Total      |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                 | Boys       | Girls      | Boys      | Girls     | Boys      | Girls     |            |
| GTOC            | 37         | 40         | 28        | 26        | 13        | 15        | 159        |
| Moyo            | 25         | 16         | 16        | 14        | 8         | 7         | 86         |
| Kundayi         | 20         | 23         | 20        | 20        | 12        | 18        | 113        |
| Jonasi          | 30         | 28         | 34        | 29        | 19        | 17        | 157        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>112</b> | <b>107</b> | <b>98</b> | <b>89</b> | <b>52</b> | <b>57</b> | <b>515</b> |



*GTOC nursery*

The District Social Welfare department has arranged for GTOC to be linked to the Roger Federer Foundation Association who partner with the following agencies to develop the nursery education:

1. Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) synod of Livingstonia.
2. Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM).
3. Action Aid-trained nursery schoolteachers. This equips them with excellent teaching skills for 5 years old learners in readiness for primary education, especially those teaching standard 1, so they should not have problems with the syllabus when moving to primary school.

As a result, two nursery teachers were drawn from each centre and attended training together with another primary standard 1 teacher and their headmaster/ headmistress.

Now, the agreed procedure is that nursery school teachers and primary standard 1 teachers meet every month to discuss challenges and progress to develop strategies on improving teaching and managing their groups/classes.



These trained nursery schoolteachers were provided guideline materials including:

1. Tablets in which all information of a child can be stored to provide easy access to a child's performance in class before qualifying for standard 1.
2. Solar, battery and bulb power.
3. Teaching books.
4. Charts as guidance when preparing for the playground.

*materials received at the training*

Lenia Joseph was chosen as a mentor to monitor how teaching is progressing. She has been given a push bike, 1 lap top bag and was awarded a certificate after finishing her one week training in Blantyre.



*Lenia Joseph with certificate*

## Health

As the Hope Clinic is now based on the GTOC grounds, the nursery children have access to having treatment without delay. This will also assist the disabled children who will be educated in the Everlands Resource Centre, also being built on the grounds.

### Impacting stories of GTOC



Lukiya Kazembe was born on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Kasungu Hospital and sadly her mother died 3 days later. She was brought to Salima by the grandmother where she is now in Ngolowindo village.

Her grandmother failed to continue feeding her with milk formula due to lack of funds and referred the problem to GTOC when Lukiya was 1 month old. GTOC immediately agreed to assist in providing milk formula. She is now 3 years old, healthy and attends nursery school, at GTOC. The grandmother is very thankful for the help given at that difficult time.

*Lukiya Kazembe looking healthy and ready for nursery school.*



*“ My name is Essime Chituzu. I am proud to say I have a daughter who goes to GTOC. Ever since she started attending classes at this school she’s grown up in all ways - she’s learnt how to read and write, count numbers from 1-10 and follow basic instructions. If it wasn’t for my child attending classes at this school we would have had to be spending a lot of money to get her to the nearest school and being a single mother I don’t think I would have managed. One thing that I ask from Starfish, is that if they could employ more staff members at GTOC, you have to understand we have a lot of children in this community and they all come here for education.”*

Essime and her young child Mphatso Chituzu.

### **Conclusion**

GTOC has made a significant impact in Ngolowindo village and surrounding communities. It is really appreciated by all how much Starfish has invested regarding education, health and welfare of both children and adults.

**Starfish Malawi are very grateful for the generous support that continues to be appreciated by the children and families served through the Glad Tidings Centre – making a significant difference... on into 2021.**