

GLAD TIDINGS ORPHAN CARE REPORT FROM

JANUARY TO JUNE 2022

Nursery school

GTOC started in 2004 and has since been children including those vulnerable and orphaned in the local communities. A key impact has been the development of nursery care, recognising the great need for nursery services in the area. Two more nursery centres at Moyo and Jonasi were opened in 2010 and a further nursery in 2011 at Kundayi as these areas are some distance to the original nursery at Ngolowindo and too far for the children to attend. Through the development of materials targeting children 3 to 6 years and the training of the nursery staff in teaching methods, implementation and assessment, the achievements have been great. Both parents and the community have observed this and are very appreciative. As a result, children are attending in large numbers.

Below is the table showing numbers of nursery users at the four nursery schools

CENTRE	CLASSES	TEACHERS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
GTOC	4	4	87	83	170
MOYO	3	3	57	58	115
JONASI	3	3	77	80	157
KUNDAYI	3	3	51	77	128
			272	298	570

GTOC provides a key foundation for primary education for the children that attend the nursery schools. This has been reflected by the performance of the children who go to enroll for primary standard 1 at Ngolowindo model school.

The following table shows first term performance records of children attending Ngolowindo primary school in standard 1 and 2, comparing grades of those who attended the Glad Tidings nurseries to those who did not.

Grade 1 = Needs support, Grade 2 = Average, Grade 3 = Good, Grade 4 = Excellent

The year 2022 Class	Term	Total number that sat for exams	Exam Results (GTOC)	Exam Results (not GTOC)
Class 1 1 st Year	1	195	78 Children	117 Children
			Grade 4 = 31%	Grade 4 = 2%
			Grade 3 = 18%	Grade 3 = 24%
			Grade 2 = 28%	Grade 2 = 31%
Grade 1 = 23%	Grade 1 = 43%			
Class 2 2 nd Year	1	203	62 Children	141 Children
			Grade 4 = 4%	Grade 4 = 1%
			Grade 3 = 6%	Grade 3 = 6%
			Grade 2 = 56%	Grade 2 = 26%
Grade 1 = 34%	Grade 1 = 67%			

The above results show that overall the children who attended the GTOC nurseries attained higher grades in the first two years of primary school than those who did not have this opportunity.

GTOC has 25 volunteers all receiving allowances provided by Starfish.

Teachers: 8 females
 Key workers: 5 (1 male)
 Nursery assists: 9 females
 Project manager: 1 female
 Watchmen: 2 males

“It is very important to teach young children because even when they grow, they will never forget what they learned before. We have many children every year - 150 or more. Most of them score better grades when they start primary school. All are like that because they have already learned how primary learners behave. They can know how to read and write and share things with others. Even their parents assist us in teaching them some activities like clay soil molding and drawing, telling them folktales and good ways of living. Before the children finish with us, we talk to them about what to expect at the primary school and discuss the children with the Standard 1 teachers.



We thank the starfish team for all their support such as porridge we eat every day and the teaching materials we use, just to mention a few.”

Emily Mkwanda, nursery teacher at G.T.O.C

New Resources

This year, new resources have been provided by Starfish such as Bible story books, pencils, and rulers. Furthermore, the Michael Jackson Orchard Garden, on the grounds, produce fruits throughout the year and supplies to each child who attends the nurseries, including the children who attend the special needs Everlands Centre also on the GTOC grounds.

Children at G.TO.C and Everland special needs resource center enjoying fruits from the orchard



GTOC has been developing a partnership with The Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM) funded by The Roger Federer Foundation, referred through the Social Welfare Department. As a result Lucy Lowe (AECDM) has trained two teachers from each nursery to teach more effectively using their Early Learning Kiosk (tablet) in which all information of the children can be saved, registers recorded, learning and teaching resources used - both in English and Chichewa.

Furthermore, on 29th March 2022, GTOC received a MK150,000 donation from AECDM to provide staff loans. The interest accrued would then be used to purchase playing materials and assist with the maintenance of the 4 nurseries.

Then on 27th April 2022, Knight Kalanda, from the Ministry of Gender Community Development of the Social Welfare Department and other government officials with Lucy visited the Kundayi nursery with a representative of the Roger Federer Foundation from Switzerland. They visited to assess the impact made by the Kiosk tablets with the theme, 'School Readiness Project Monitoring'. The aim was to monitor how the early learning Kiosk was helping teachers and if the information in it was clear and understandable to use.



Visitors Helping Children to Wash Hands before Lunch



Visitors Playing with the Children

During their meeting with Mary Mwendah, GTOC Project Manager, the visitors were satisfied and confident with her explanation to their questions. She will continue to communicate with them regarding the rolling out of their resource.

14th July AECDM brought children and teachers from another local nursery school to visit GTOC to see how the tablets were being used and discuss the benefits of this resource. Lucy often introduces the GTOC nurseries to visitors as she is confident that it is a very good model of their outreach work in Salima.



Visitors from another nursery to experience the new resources



Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Welfare Programme

GTOC key workers make frequent home visits to the 177 registered orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in the area in order to monitor their welfare such as standards of clothing, education, sanitation, behavior, and values/spirituality. They assist/advise where needed and share needs with the Starfish management who are able to distribute blankets, clothes, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. On 11th June there was a distribution of the above supplied from Starfish.

And when the hunger period hit the area earlier in the year, caused by a poor harvest and lack of fertilizer, Starfish distributed 20kgs of maize to each of 177 children from 121 households.

Ivy Frodreck, aged 9 was born on 19th September 2013. Ivy is one of the children who now attend the Everlands Special Needs Centre. She comes from Chiola village where she lives with her mother. She was born 8 weeks premature birth and had significant developmental delays.

She didn't crawl until the age of 2 years and her mother tells us that Ivy was diagnosed with cerebral palsy which affected the mobility in her right arm and leg. Her mother is very happy to see her child going to primary school lessons and also significant is the transportation which children are provided with to travel to and from their homes every day.

The mother extends a big thanks to Starfish which has made such a huge difference in her child's life.

