



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Our foundation has a partnership with the
Window of Hope Foundation
in Mangochi, Malawi

Utrecht, May 2020

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Collaboration with the WoHF
3. Projects: Chitowa, Ngalamo, agriculture, literacy, Global Goals
4. Varia
5. Board and finances
6. Looking forward to 2020



1. Introduction

Since 2012 the Quality Centre has been active, supporting projects in Mangochi, Malawi. After co-writing the handbook *Community Empowerment in a developing country* by Mary Sibande and Leida Schuringa, several other projects were started and carried out in collaboration with the Window of Hope Foundation (WoHF), of which Mary is director. The cooperation is going to our satisfaction!

Due to circumstances, no separate 2018 annual report has been published. In this report you will find the activities from that year mentioned in the relevant projects. Current projects were partly completed in these two years and new goals emerged.

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECD) in Chitowa was completed and literacy courses run at intervals (breaks for rainy season, harvests). The agricultural project suffered many setbacks. 2019 was mainly about fundraising for the new ECD in Ngalamo and the training course for child caregivers. The municipality of Utrecht has contributed to this project through a subsidy from Utrecht4GlobalGoals.

We found a new chairman in the person of Henk Krijgsheld, he is acting chairman since March 2018.

You can read the developments in this annual report.

For the workgroup Malawi:

Pim Brackenhoff

Jos van Dijk

Leida Schuringa

Liesbeth Redeke

For the Board:

Chair: Henk Krijgsheld

Secretary: Liesbeth Redeke

Treasurer: Leida Schuringa



The agriculture project in Ngalamo, Mary Sibande (left) with the neighbours.

2. Cooperation QC Malawi with Window of Hope Foundation

2.1 The people

In the Netherlands



The Malawi workgroup consists of 4 volunteers: Leida Schuringa, Pim Brackenhoff, Jos van Dijk en Liesbeth Redeke. They meet about 20 times annually.

The board meets- sometimes combined with the workgroup- 2-3 times a year.

For the board members of the Quality Centre Foundation, see section 5.

In Malawi

The board members of the Window of Hope Foundation are:

Sultan Chowe	Traditional Authority	Malawian	Board Chair
Winston Majamanda	Educationalist	Malawian	Vice Chair
Rehema Chuma	Accountant	Malawian	Financial Controller
Isaach Machinjiri	Social Worker	Malawian	Team Member
Rev. Sibande	Pastor	Malawian	Team Member
Rev. Mundisiye	Pastor	Malawian	Team Member

Mary Sibande is the director and Elliot Kumwanje, her husband, is the operations manager of the WoHF. Our contact is mostly with Mary, and Elliot is mostly concerned with the implementation of the projects.



2.2 Communication with Mary/WoHF

In her previous work as a nurse/midwife, Mary was dealing with mother and child care and worked for Cordaid on a project on (prevention of) maternal mortality. Since then she has developed into an expert in prevention and public health, with a passion for Community Empowerment.

In 2015 she obtained her Masters in Community Health and Development from the Great Lakes University of Kisumu in Kenya.

Originally we communicated with Mary through email and skype. Because of frequent power-failures and poor internet accessibility in Mangochi this was often problematic.

In 2016 we started to use WhatsApp which works much better, both for pictures and for short news

about the progress of projects. It makes phone calls easier too. Mary regularly sends us project-proposals and reports on the ongoing or finished projects.

Mary is truly the planning and driving force in the WoHF. Several times we have discussed our mutual concerns about problems in project continuity that could arise if she were to drop out or would have less time due to a busy job. She has several people in mind who could help her, but they are not yet available or only want to provide occasional services under the guidance of Mary or Elliot. As part of the Global Goals project, their son Emmanuel played a leading role in Lilongwe.

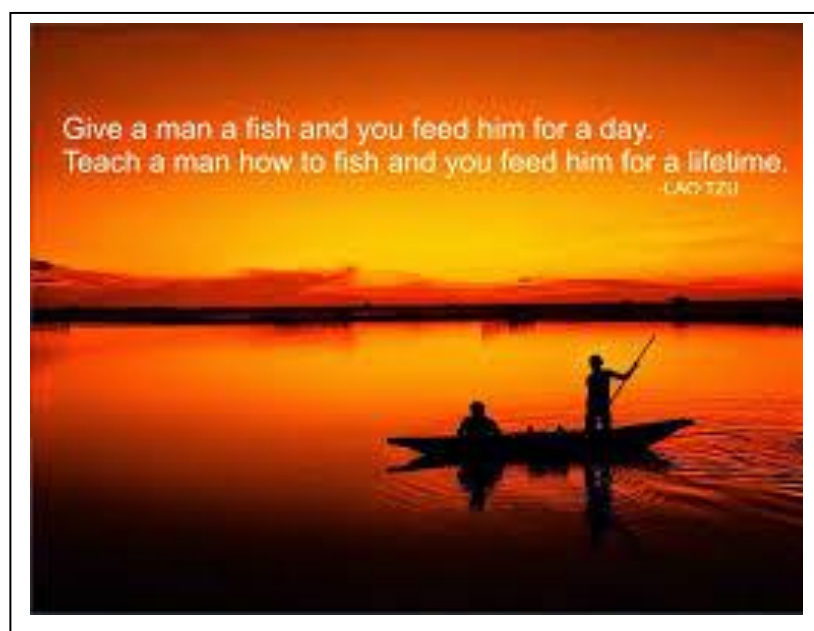
In 2019 Mary had health problems and underwent surgery. Despite limited energy, she has supervised the current projects and expects to manage the implementation of the Ngalamo project (ECD construction and teacher training) in 2020.

2.3 Our mission as formulated in 2016

We believe in the strength and capacity of each individual. Applying the method of Community Empowerment (CE) we want to support people and communities to develop, reach their full potential and improve their quality of life. Giving support where people need a little boost.

We are convinced that by identifying power and talent in a community and enhancing its problem solving skills (by CE), the circle of poverty, illiteracy and ill health can be broken. This is a vision we share with the Window of Hope Foundation (WoHF).

The ultimate goal is resilience, as is expressed so well in this proverb:



The activities of the Quality Centre largely consist of finding funds to finance projects in the Mangochi district.

The projects are proposed by the Window of Hope Foundation. The intention is that the projects can ultimately continue without external financing and that enough money is earned locally to carry out projects that the WoHF want to realise in reaching her objectives.

The QC workgroup gives solicited and unsolicited advice and sometimes proposes (suggestions for) solutions. She also provides support in drawing up project- and business- plans.

In addition, the workgroup aims to further introduce and propagate the principles of CE in Malawi, in collaboration with Mary Sibande and local authorities.

3. Ongoing projects

3.1 Early Childhood Development Centres: Chitowa and plans voor Ngalamo

Chitowa

The main activity in 2018 was the construction of the ECD/children's centre in Chitowa. The centre in



Chitowa serves as an example for the surrounding villages. At this moment about 400 children are using the centre every week.

The caregivers asked for professionalization. In 2020 ten caregivers - for the 5 ECD's in the district - will receive training. These bottom-up initiatives, in which people make their own choices and plans, have a high chance of continuity.

The ECDs will lead to improved access to education for the rural population. And ultimately lead to less poverty and improved

living conditions.

In 2019 measures were taken to strengthen the roof construction. The cyclone that swept through the country earlier that year, damaged part of the roof.

Thanks to an extra contribution from Wilde Ganzen, the repair could be done quickly. An improved drainage system has been installed and (fruit) trees have been planted, which will also function as additional windbreakers.



The active group in Chitowa has a new treasurer, Sakuwasa Mmadi, also one of the pioneers in the village of Chitowa. She suggested that a water supply (for example, a bore hole) in Chitowa is highly desirable, both for the ECD and for the entire community.

Ngalamo

In the village of Ngalamo close to in Mangochi, we already supported a project on organic agriculture and a literacy project for women. Mary involves the women of the community in all the planning activities and in this way implements the principles of empowerment. These women asked if an educational childcare center (ECD) could be built near their village.

Children's centres in Mangochi are difficult to reach from Ngalamo and surrounding villages. More than 100 children will use this centre. They will therefore be better prepared when they go to primary school. Mary has leased a piece of land adjacent to the land that the WoHF is already using. The residents will help with the construction. Also a house for a guard/ worker on the land will be built at this location.



school in Kenya, design Edwin Megens

Edwin Megens, architect at Movares In Utrecht, will provide a design for the building. The work will be coordinated by Mary and Elliot.

Mary reported that an important woman died in this village in 2019: Enifa Bello, or “Mama Ngalamo”, the woman who supported the plans in her village and motivated the other women to participate in the agricultural project and the literacy course. She really was a key figure. We hope that other women will come forward to take over her role.



Training the caregivers

In addition to the construction of the centre, the Ngalamo project includes organizing and financing the aforementioned training of 10 child carers. A recognized training from the Ministry of Education consists of a two-week course in which the participants are residential. The Window of Hope Foundation plans and organises the logistics and checks the implementation. Follow-up and purchase of play materials for the five ECD's involved have been included in the budget. The course will probably start after the summer holidays 2020, but that is still very uncertain given Corona.

Financing the Ngalamo project

In 2018, Wilde Ganzen approved and accepted this Ngalamo project. At the end of 2019, the required amount of over € 18,000.00 was available, of which € 12,000 was collected by QC. The rest has been supplemented by Wilde Ganzen. We were again present at markets and meetings

with banners of Wilde Ganzen. Among others on King's Day with a book stand at the Vrijmarkt in Utrecht (proceeds € 740).



We also sold organic flower bulbs and Malawian bags at Christmas markets and other locations. We received gifts from various private funds and collection proceeds from, among others, the Dominicuskerk in Amsterdam. In addition, we have a number of loyal donors.

3.2 Global Goals: the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations



We applied for money from the municipality of Utrecht in the context of the Here and There Utrecht4GlobalGoals project. This meant that we received 2000 euros for the training of the childcare workers in Malawi in exchange for providing information about the Global Goals in Utrecht. The municipality also paid for the costs we had to incur for this.

We developed activities at a number of Utrecht schools. There, using our projects in Malawi as examples, we explained the Global Goals, in particular the goals concerning poverty, nutrition and education

The second half of 2019 we have been busy with the preparation of our activities (in collaboration with De Brede School) and its implementation. We gave introductory lessons at 9 primary schools in Zuilen and let children draw and paint and make music around the themes of Global Goals.

At the Stedelijk Gymnasium a theme week was devoted to the Global Goals, focusing on the themes of education (especially prevention of drop-outs, mostly girls) and nutrition. Jos van Dijk has set up a teaching program. On the last day of this week, pupils walked to school (instead of biking or being driven by car or bus), for which they received sponsoring money.

In total approximately € 2400.00 was collected. Half of this goes to the Ngalamo project, the other half goes to the Malawi-Mangochi Foundation which finances further education for promising students there.



Finally, an English-language digital newspaper about the Global Goals was produced. This newspaper was created as a **collaboration project** between:

- primary school De Spits group 8d (an HB group) in Utrecht, consisting of 20 students; permanent teachers: Rieke Huijgen / Annelies Huysmans and English teacher: Hanneke
- a secondary school for girls in Lilongwe, Malawi, permanent teacher mrs. Mitumba; staff members of the WoHF: Emmanuel Kumwanje and Rachel Iphani
- Foundation Quality Center Malawi (Leida Schuringa, Pim Brakenhoff, Liesbeth Redeke)
- Wil van de Ven of JeweetwelTV

The aim of the project was: Students in the Netherlands and Malawi know what the Sustainable Global Goals are and what the differences in living conditions are between these two countries. Improving communication in English was also an objective.



All together with these projects we have reached 575 students in Utrecht and 20 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

3.3 Agriculture

Since 2016 theWoHF has been in contact with Johannes Bos in Zomba, who has developed a green farming method: Foundations for Farming, FfF, also known as Farming God's Way. The Johannes Foundation promotes organic, sustainable agriculture, with irrigation and the use of chicken manure. Johannes gave a course in Ngalamo and we financed a pilot, including the construction of an irrigation system. Mary and Elliot have involved the entire community in this: the residents of adjacent plots benefit from the knowledge.



Moringa

In the early years, the harvest failed a number of times due to theft, rice-eating hippos, insect pests (especially ants) and climate influences. Non-toxic agents are being sought to reduce the ant infestation. In addition, there have been problems with the irrigation pump and the pipes.

Elliot Kumwanje and a colleague attended a symposium in Mzuzu in 2018 with SMART: Simple, Market based, Affordable, Repairable Technologies, on locally made water pumps.

A good fence has now been built around the land with Moringo trees as "poles", after previous poles were stolen

(for firewood). This tree provides various edible products. The Hunger Project initiates projects in Malawi and other East African countries where plots are planted with Moringo trees ¹. The leaves are locally processed into tea, powder (a healthy addition to infant nutrition) and vegetables. Should agriculture on this land remain problematic, joining this project would be an option.

3.4 The literacy project

In 2017, the women of the Tulongosole group in Mangochi indicated that they would like to pursue further education after taking the Economic Empowerment course. They wanted to start a reading and writing course because a large number of women are illiterate. It turned out that there were more women's groups who also wanted this.

With the aid of Cordaid we were able to finance this project. In 2017 10 teachers were trained, to teach five groups of women. They started with 3 groups. The Tulongosole group has been conducting the reading and writing course since 2018, as have the women of Ngalamo who are involved in the agricultural project.



One problem was the lack of teaching materials, especially textbooks. The government has special adult education textbooks, but has been unable to provide them for a long time. In 2018, a private donation made it possible for Mary to have enough booklets copied, which made the participants very happy.

We still have € 2000 in our bank account², received from the tip jar of Café Averechts, designated to finance a follow-up.



The Tulongosole group with their new tekst books



The students show their progress

¹ Moringa is an important food source in some parts of the world. Because it can be grown cheaply and easily, and the leaves retain lots of vitamins and minerals when dried, moringo is used in India and Africa in feeding programs to fight malnutrition. The immature green pods (drumsticks) are prepared similarly to green beans, while the seeds are removed from more mature pods and cooked like peas or roasted like nuts. The leaves are cooked and used like spinach, and they are also dried and powdered for use as a condiment.

² However, in 2020 we used this reserve to co-finance the Covid 19 project

4. Miscellaneous

In 2018, we spent a lot of time discussing how we as a foundation should deal with the new privacy laws, GDPR.



Liesbeth and Jos attended the PARTIN day and collected an award that Leida won with a story vividly describing the local impact of a project.

Publicity

We have a website that informs visitors about the progress of the projects. Twice a year we send a newsletter through our mailing list. In 2018 and 2019, we updated the mailing list under the GDPR and asked all consignees for their

permission. There are now 43 people on the list.

We have a Malawi news bulletin that is also emailed to the WoHF partners. It contains the most up-to-date information about Malawi via links to articles and news items. We have flyers, business cards and sustainable ballpoints to hand out. We regularly have a stall at markets and fairs. With the Global Goals project at primary school de Cirkel, we were on the local television channel. We are still looking for more ways to make more use of social media in our communications and fundraising activities.

Collaboration partners

Annette van Dijk who lived in Zomba for 3 year to organise a distribution network for Afripads, reusable sanitary pads, left. Because unfortunately the project stopped. Her team has gained a lot of experience with sex education in schools, which was highly appreciated by both teachers and students. If there is a follow-up to that, we hope the WoHF may be of assistance in Mangochi district.

Edwin Megens, architect at Movares in Utrecht, has experience with designing for a tropical climate. He has offered to help WoHF and Mary with the design of the ECD in Ngalamo.

Wilde Ganzen is our partner of choice !!!! We are happy to promote them!



5. Board of Quality Centre and Finances

From January-March 2018 the board of Stichting QC consisted of:

- Chair: Liesbeth Arends
- Secretary: Liesbeth Redeke
- Treasurer: Leida Schuringa

From March 2018 and in 2019 this was the board of QC:

- Chair: Henk Krijgsheld
- Secretary: Liesbeth Redeke
- Treasurer: Leida Schuringa

Contact adress: Abraham Bloemaertstraat 14, 3514 VP Utrecht

Website: www.gcnetwerk.nl
Facebook pagina Quality Centre: www.facebook.com/QCnetwerk

Bankaccount: NL101INGB0004256879 of Stichting Quality Centre.
QC has ANBI status.

Our working method is that the WoHF first writes a plan with a budget. Sometimes a very extensive project, sometimes a short one. Then we try to find financiers for this project.

In addition, we generate money for general expenses such as bank charges, the costs of hosting the website, for the accountant or for the purchase of things we sell such as bulbs and bags. This money comes partly from general donations. We have started to form a pool of regular donors.

For further information see the annual financial reports.

6. Plans for 2020

6.1 Caregivers training and building an ECD in Ngalamo

There is a Malawian government program to train nursery school leaders. Participants receive a certificate. After receiving the training, they must commit to continue working for the WoHF foundation for at least 2 years.

The target amount was reached at the end of 2019 and was transferred to Wilde Ganzen. WoHF will organize this course (2 weeks, residential) in 2020: location, catering, supervision and necessary facilities during the training. The WoHF will also provide follow-up and accountability. And will report on the progress.

This course is part of a broader project, namely the construction of an ECD near Ngalamo, with living quarters for an employee/ night watchman. Construction started in April 2020!

6.2 Two men at work

Mary has found two men who want to work for WoHF. One will work on the land and the other will become the guardian of the plot. They will receive a temporary employment contract of 3 months and an extension if both parties are content with the arrangement.

QC contributed to the initial costs of hiring these men such as work clothes, tools and wages for the first three months.

6.3 Corona/Covid 19

Mary has written a very comprehensive proposal for corona prevention in the Mangochi district. We are trying to find a financier for the big plan (30,000 euros). A smaller plan, primarily providing hand washing facilities at rural markets, information via pictograms, and food supply for the elderly, is being realized in collaboration with Wilde Ganzen.

6.4 Agriculture Moringa plan

Mary has started to write a business plan to cash out the yield of the Moringa trees and perhaps plant more. The leaves can be harvested, dried and sold. We hope that this will take further shape this year.