



Quality Centre Malawi

Annual Report 2020

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

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1. Introduction

It seemed to be the start of a normal year, 2020. In January we were not yet aware of the emergence of a deadly virus in China, that was going to affect the whole planet. We made plans as usual. Late in December 2019 Wilde Ganzen transferred the funds for the Ngalamo project to WoHF and in January they started building the ECD. The Global Goals project in Utrecht was nearly finished; the GG newspaper project between Utrecht and Lilongwe had reached its final stage. We learned that In Mangochi the chairman of the board of WoHF, sultan Chowe, spoke on tv about the importance of education. His vision coincides with ours and we want to address this issue in the future.

We have a good working relationship with the Window of Hope Foundation. Mary underwent surgery but indicates that she has recovered well. Communication via WhatsApp is an improvement because skypeing and e-mail was often hindered by electricity and internet failure in Mangochi. Mary/WoHF has employed two men to work the land at Ngalamo and act as guards at the building site.

In this report we inform you about the development of the various projects.

On behalf of the Malawi “workgroup”:

Pim Brackenhoff
Jos van Dijk
Leida Schuringa
Liesbeth Redeke

For the board

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



Participants of the agriculture project in Ngalamo (left Mary Sibande)

2. Collaboration of QC Malawi with the Window of Hope Foundation

2.1 The people

In the Netherlands

The Malawi workgroup counts 4 volunteers: Leida Schuringa, Pim Brackenhoff, Jos van Dijk en Liesbeth Redeke. They met 12 times in 2020, of which 4 times via zoom/skype. The board met twice this year, in a joint meeting with the workgroup. You will find the board of Stichting Quality Centre in paragraph 8.



In Malawi

The board of the Window of Hope Foundation consists of the following persons:

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 de operations manager of the WoHF. We communicate mainly with Mary; Elliot is mostly concerned with the implementation of the projects.



2.2 Communication with Mary and the WoHF

Starting from a background as a nurse/midwife, Mary 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. Before 2012 she also did a course at the University of Groningen.

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.

Leida en Mary regularly communicate via Whatsapp. Mary sends interim reports and pictures.

Mary's son Emmanuel, who is an administrative specialist in Lilongwe, feels connected with the WoHF and in 2019 and 2020 mediated and participated in the Global Goals project.

2.3 Our mission

We believe in the strength and capacity of each individual. Applying the method of Community Empowerment (CE) we aim 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.

The goal is resilience. As the expression goes, give someone a fish and he will eat for one day. Teach him to fish and he will feed a generation.

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 fall under the objectives of the WoHF.

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.

Furthermore QC intends to promote and implement the principles of Community Empowerment in Malawi in cooperation with Mary Sibande and the local authorities'

3. Ongoing projects

3.1 Early Childhood Development Centers: Chitowa

The ECD in Chitowa, Mangochi district, is one of 5 childcare centres supported by the WoHF.

The building was completed in 2018. Since then an improved drainage system has been constructed and (fruit)trees were planted, also serving as windbreakers.



They still wish for a (drinking)water supply, eg a borehole.

About 400 children use the center each week. ECD's will improve the access and motivation to (further) education in rural areas and eventually lead to less poverty, to improved living conditions.

3.2 Early Childhood Development Centers: Ngalamo

The village of Ngalamo, close to Mangochi, where we support an organic farming project and a literacy project for women, also indicated the need for an ECD. This was the plan for 2020: the construction of an ECD and the training of 10 leaders for 5 ECDs. More than 100 children will use this new center; as a result, they will be better prepared for primary school. The residents provide land and labour. The school, which will be next to the agricultural site, will also provide housing for a guard/worker on the land.

At the end of 2019, in collaboration with Wilde Ganzen, the funds for this Ngalamo project that was to be carried out in 2020, were transferred. Construction started in January 2020; the course was to take place later in the year.



Construction came to a complete standstill due to corona; the foundation is ready and the walls are up. The contractor couldn't/didn't dare/ was not allowed to continue, and due to corona measures, the materials for the roof are difficult to get. All prices have also risen sharply. Left: the situation in May 2020

Work could be continued during several weeks. In October the side walls were up to roof level. Roofing materials are hard to come by.



Training of childcare workers

In addition to the construction of the center, the “Ngalamo” project includes organizing and financing the aforementioned training of 10 childcare workers. This certified/recognized training from the Ministry of Education consists of a 2 week course in which the participants are residential. The Window of Hope Foundation will plan and organise the logistics and monitor the implementation. Follow up and purchase of (playing and handicraft) materials in the 5 centers is included in the budget.

The course has been postponed due to corona, we hope it will be possible in 2021.

3.3 Global Goals, 17 sustainable development goals of the UN

In the city of Utrecht we were active with the Global Goals project. The municipality of Utrecht has supported our project in the context of Utrecht4GlobalGoals, most of which we carried out in 2019. Liesbeth, Pim and Leida gave a number of lessons at primary schools in Zuilen about the Global Goals of the UN, using our projects in Malawi as an example. Jos made a teaching program for the Stedelijk Gymnasium that devoted a theme-week to this. In particular, goals concerning education, elimination of poverty and hunger were discussed. We received a subsidy for this from the municipality of Utrecht and the Stedelijk Gym raised more than € 1000 through a sponsor action.



The last part of this project was completed in 2020. In collaboration between a class in Lunetten and a secondary school for girls in Lilongwe, a (digital) newspaper has been made with photos and pieces in English about the Global Goals and the differences between life in the Netherlands and Malawi. The intention was to learn from each other and to recognize the similarities and differences.

The last part of this project was completed in February 2020. In collaboration between a grade 8 class in Lunetten and a secondary school for girls in Lilongwe, a (digital) newspaper has been made with photos and articles in English about the Global Goals and the differences between life in the Netherlands and Malawi. The aim was to learn from each other and to recognize the similarities and differences.

Emmanuel Kumwanje coordinated this project in Lilongwe. The aim is to present the newspapers in Lilongwe to institutions and other schools in order to spread knowledge about the Global Goals. Funding for the printing of the newspapers and their distribution has been requested from us and is still being sought. But due to corona, this idea cannot be implemented for the time being.



In May 2020 we sent our report and financial accountability to the municipality of Utrecht. Handing over a Global Goals newspaper to the mayor was canceled due to corona.

3.4 Agriculture

Part of the plot near Ngalamo that was leased with our support in 2013 to set up a business center there in the future, is currently in use as agricultural land. Since 2016 Window of Hope 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.

In 2020, Mary/WoHF hired 2 men to work the land and guard the ECD construction site. They also build houses for their families there. Mary would like them to attend a seminar in Zomba at FfF; this has been postponed for the time being due to corona. Quality Center guaranteed the salaries of these men until the end of 2020. The intention is that they will be paid from the proceeds of agriculture.



Groundnuts, aubergines and various vegetables have been planted. Maize is difficult (many pests).

Many Moringa trees have been planted on and around the land. This tree provides various edible products. It 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, Moringa 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. The Hunger Project initiates projects in Malawi and other East African countries where plots of Moringa trees are planted and processed locally to tea, powder (a healthy addition to infant food) and vegetables.

Mary has ideas for commercially exploiting Moringa products, but that is not a priority - partly due to corona restrictions

3.6 Literacy project

In 2017 women in Tulongosole, after their economic empowerment course, started a course in 'arithmetic, reading and writing' because many of these women are illiterate. Other groups of women also requested such a course. In 2017 10 'lay' teachers were trained and 3 groups of women started the course, including the women in Ngalamo from the agricultural project. Thanks to a private donation we were able to provide (copied) lesson books .



The literacy project is co-financed by Cordaid. Due to corona there are currently no courses. The € 2000 that we still had in reserve for a follow-up (received from the tip jar from Cafe Averechts) were used in 2020 in the COVID-19 information and support project.



Learners in Tulongosole with their new schoolbooks

4. New projects

4.1 Corona/COVID 19

2020 was dominated by the pandemic. Current projects were delayed, but new initiatives emerged. In April Wilde Ganzen came up with a proposal to provide corona relief and support in areas where they co-finance projects. WG would contribute 50% of the costs as opposed to the normal 33%. Mary first came up with a very extensive and well-founded plan. We have tried to find funds for this major project through, among others, the Dutch Ministry of Health and Doctors Without Borders, but unfortunately we have not succeeded. Then in May - in consultation with Mary - we selected a number of (financially) feasible components from the grand plan.

The designing and production of posters in the local language, explanation of measures in remote villages, the construction of sanitary facilities in a number of markets and food support for the elderly required a budget of € 6500. For our share of € 3250 we drew from our reserves, including the € 2000 from Averechts (see literacy).



Later in the year, Emmanuel came up with a proposal from the high school girls who had participated in the Global Goals project to conduct a COVID awareness campaign in schools and surrounding villages in Lilongwe. People are poorly motivated to wear face masks (too warm) and do not understand the importance of many measures. The girls who made the Global Goals newspaper, the "Global Girls", find it important to inform these people. For the costs of € 500 we looked for sponsors among the Utrecht general practitioners and the Association of Dutch Female Doctors VNVA. As soon as the schools open again after a lockdown because of a second wave (beginning of 2021), they want to get started on this.

4.2 Community Empowerment

We once made a plan for Community Empowerment courses in Malawi, based on the book written by Mary and Leida. The courses are aimed at lecturers at colleges where community workers (in various disciplines) are trained, and at the field workers themselves.

No funding has yet been found for this and the implementation of other projects requires a lot of energy from those involved in Mangochi, so this project will remain on hold for the time being. There was, however, a meeting in autumn 2020 with Wilde Ganzen who want to change their policy towards more community involvement. Mary and Leida will be invited in 2021 for a presentation about their insights and experiences.

4.3 A home for every child

In August Wilde Ganzen announced a new project: "A home for every child". It was a call to submit a project plan under this theme and an amount of €10,000 would be donated to the best/winning plan. This theme fits well with the objectives of the WoHF, which was once established to support families who take in orphans, children of mothers who died during childbirth. The aim of the support is primarily to ensure that the children can (continue to) go to school.

At our request Mary wrote an extensive project proposal. In addition to a guaranteed flow of money for the families in which the children live (more than 20 in various ages, at primary and secondary schools and university), this also included various material provisions regarding housing, hygiene (drinking water supply, bedding) and educational materials. Funds for the to supervision and monitoring are also needed. The children live scattered in various villages in the district. High school is often at a boarding school.

At the end of October we received word from Wilde Ganzen that unfortunately our plan was not eligible for the € 10,000, but we were advised to submit the plan as a regular project, especially for the material needs. This plan was eventually submitted at the beginning of 2021.

Because within the framework of Wilde Ganzen individual children cannot be supported, we came up with another idea: the Adoption Plan. Quality Center has started to look for donors who will



guarantee the education of the orphans for a number of years for a fixed amount. They can benefit from a tax advantage if they pledge at least €50 for at least 5 years. An action plan was drawn up with Mary and when a donor has been found, she was consulted about which of the child(ren) would be selected. By December 2020, support was granted for 12 children: 9 primary school children (€200 per year), 2 secondary school children (€300 per year) and 1 university student (€500 per semester). Registrations are still ongoing.

5. Miscellaneous

5.1 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. (about 100 people)

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. Due to Corona we have not been present at markets this year.

In February a photo exhibition opened in the Beatrix community center in Zuilen, where Liesbeth explained the current projects based on photos she took in Malawi during her visit in 2017.

We addressed our networks looking for “adoptive parents”.

In newsletters to the Utrecht general practitioners and the Association of Dutch Female Physicians, a request for a contribution to the COVID prevention project was published.

We continue our search for ways to use social media in our communications and fundraising activities.

5.2 Partners

Annette van Dijk, who lived in Zomba for 3 years to set up a distribution network for washable sanitary napkins from the Afripads foundation, has left there. Unfortunately the project has stopped. She has offered to assist us as a Malawi experience expert with advice and assistance if we need it.

Emmanuel Kumwanje, the son of Mary Sibande en Elliot Kumwanje lives in Lilongwe but feels a strong connection with the Window of Hope Foundation and gets involved in various ways.

Over the years, Wilde Ganzen has become a collaborative partner and regularly supports our projects.



5.3 Board and Finances

In 2020 the board of Quality Center Malawi consists of:

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

Contactadress: Abraham Bloemaertstraat 14, 3514 VP Utrecht

Website: www.qcnetwerk.nl

Website Window of Hope Foundation: www.hopebusinesscentre-malawi.com

Bankaccount: NL101INGB0004256879 tof Stichting Quality Centre.

QC has ANBI status.

Our working method is that the WoHF first writes a plan with a budget. Project. 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.

Our Financial Report for 2020 can be found on our website.

6. Plans for 2021

The implementation of the plans will be influenced by the corona situation and the resulting restrictions and additional costs.

6.1 Caregivers training

WoHF hopes to organize this course (2 weeks, residential) in 2021. This involves to hire a location and arrange for catering, supervision and necessary facilities during the training. The WoHF also provides follow-up and accountability.

6.2 Literacy

10 teachers were trained, so far 3 groups have been taught. The other teachers could also be used. After a refresher course. The ongoing groups need a follow up. We expect this to have low priority next year due to corona.

6.3 Agriculture

With the two employees on the land at Ngalamo, there is more continuity. The aim is to use biological methods. Sometimes this is a challenge because there are many crop-destroying insects that are traditionally controlled with insecticides. We hope that next year a seminar will take place in Zomba at Foundations for Farming and that these men will be able to attend.

6.4 Adoption plan and A home for every child

In 2021 we will expand the adoption of orphans. First of all, by looking for more people who want to “adopt” a child. Furthermore, we will wait and see whether Wilde Ganzen will approve the 'Home for every child' plan and then we can start fundraising activities.

6.5 Covid relief and awareness

We are waiting for a report on the Corona activities in the villages around Mangochi. We also hope that Emmanuel and the “Global Girls” will be able to carry out their COVID awareness project in Lilongwe. Schools will open again on February 22 (2021) after a strict lockdown. The second wave has hit Malawi much harder than the first.

6.6 Community empowerment

We are looking forward to Mary's and Leida's presentation at Wilde Ganzen
We also want to brainstorm with Mary about supporting young leaders (such as the girls in Lilongwe).