



Quality Centre Malawi

Annual Report 2016

The partner organisation of Quality Centre in Malawi is
the Window of Hope Foundation in Mangochi.

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1. Introduction

2016 was a year of transition: QC Women refugees changed to QC Malawi.

Cooperation and communication with the Window of Hope Foundation went well, especially after Mary Sibande returned from Kenya where she received her Masters diploma in Community Health and development.

The following projects were given priority: agriculture, Educational Daycare Centres (Chitowa) and a literacy training.

The Malawi support group:

Pim Brackenhoff

Jos van Dijk

Leida Schuringa

Liesbeth Redeke

The Board:

Chair: Liesbeth Arends

Secretary: Liesbeth Redeke

Treasurer: Leida Schuringa



The agriculture project, a cooperation within the community (Mary Sibande on the left)

2. Transition of QC refugee women to QC Malawi

2.1 Retrospective

From the annual report of QC refugee women in 2015:

"In 2012 a new initiative of QC was launched on Community Empowerment in Malawi. QC works together with the Window of Hope Foundation (WOHF) in Mangochi, Malawi. It started as a collaborative project between the two foundations to write a handbook (Community Empowerment in a developing country). The board has decided to continue the project in Malawi as an independent project in QC.

It provides a new and international perspective in the organization. It also builds on experience gained with previous initiatives by QC.”

2.2 The transition

Quality Centre started in 2006 to support and coach refugee women on a basis of equality with the aim to give them a full place in Dutch society. The mission of QC was defined in the statutes as: *supporting people who are unable to apply their qualities and talents in society on their own.* Leida's personal mission was to use Spiral Dynamics integral principles in the work of QC. After the subsidies in 2011 stopped, it became increasingly difficult to achieve the goals. Only the Malawi project remained. Since the same mission applies to what is aimed for in the Malawi project, the board agreed to transfer QC to the Malawi group.

The final transition was somewhat delayed due to late completion of the finances of QC and the search for an external chairperson.

In November 2016, the new board was registered with the Chamber of Commerce.

We would like to again thank the former directors for their efforts, especially during the last difficult years of completion.

The formal name of the Foundation is Stichting Quality Centre. In recent years Quality Centre Refugee Women was used as a “working name”. Since only the Malawi project remains, we now use Quality Centre Malawi " as the new “working name” . The archives of QC Refugee Women are stored and managed by QC Malawi. The site is now entirely dedicated to the Malawi Project (see www.qcnetwerk.nl) and the Facebook account has been renamed. With the completion of the financial statements in 2016 also the financial management passed into the hands of QC Malawi.

3. Cooperation QC Malawi with Window of Hope Foundation

3.1 The People

In the Netherlands

The Malawi working group consists of four volunteers: Leida Schuringa, Pim Brackenhoff, Jos van Dijk and Liesbeth Redeke. In 2016 the group met 20 times, almost always at full strength, and sometimes with a guest. For each project, one of the group members is the responsible coordinator.

For the board of Stichting Quality Centre Malawi: see section 5.

In Malawi

The board of the Window of Hope Foundation :

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 WoHF. Most of our dealings and communications are with Mary

3.2 Communication with Mary and WoHF

2015 and the first half of 2016 were difficult years in Malawi due to the effects of climate change (floods, drought, famine). Mary studied in 2014 - 2015 in Kenya at the Great Lakes University of Kisumu. During that period we communicated less and the projects in Mangochi slowed down. She successfully finished her Masters in Community Health and Development and graduated in May 2016.



Mary sent us a nice report on the graduation and was then able to devote herself with renewed energy to the projects in Mangochi.

We started a What'sApp group that works well, both for photos and for short messages. Mary sends regular reports on the progress of projects and writes project proposals. Mary and Leida also skype regularly.

3.3 Our mission as formulated in 2016

We believe in the strength, talents and qualities of every person. Using the Community Empowerment methodology (CE) we want to support people and communities, wherever they need a helping hand, to develop and use these talents .

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 group consist largely of looking for funding to finance projects in the Mangochi district. The projects are proposed by the Window of Hope Foundation.

The intention is that after some time projects can continue without external funding and that enough money will be earned locally to carry out (more) projects that lie within the objectives of the WoHF. The QC Group gives solicited and unsolicited advice and sometimes provides or suggests solutions. It also helps with the drafting of project- and businessplans. In addition, the group is committed to further introduce and implement/teach the principles of CE in Malawi, in collaboration with Mary Sibande and local authorities.

4. Current projects

4.1 Educational Daycare Centre in Chitowa

This concerns the rebuilding of an educational daycare centre in Chitowa, Mangochi district. The rebuilding of the EDC in Chitowa is part of a larger project, namely the (re) building and refurbishing of three nurseries in the district.



We hope that the Center in Chitowa will be an example for surrounding villages. If it is a success, other communities may be stimulated to invest energy and materials to build more educational day care centers. These "bottom-up" initiatives will lead to improved access to education in rural areas. And this ultimately leads to improved living conditions.



QC applied to Wild Geese for funds for this Chitowa project. The WoHF has described what is needed, made a plan and has calculated the budget. Bricks are made locally and members of the community will carry out the work. Wild Geese accepted this Chitowa project. The contract was signed in May 2016.

The goal is the construction of the ECD in Chitowa plus the purchase of toys, total costs estimated at € 7615. Of this total, € 5200 is to be supplied by QC. This amount must be and will be available by May 27, 2017. We sold organic bulbs, Malawian bags and other stuff on Christmas markets and other meetings, showing the banners of Wild Geese and received collection money from several churches..

We also competed with this project to win the Golden Goose. Through much lobbying our project finished in 20th place. Unfortunately not high enough to compete for the prize of € 10,000 (which went to building and equipping a maternity ward at the Trinity Hospital in Muona, Malawi).

4.2 Agriculture

In 2013 the Window of Hope Foundation was - with funding from us - able to purchase a piece of land (1.3 hectare, a lease for 50 years). The initial goal was to build offices and a large community hall with the objective to rent these out and eventually generate revenues for WoHF (Hope Business Center). Due to lack of local initiatives/management quality (and the threat of famine) it was decided that for the time being it was better to use the land to grow maize, vegetables and other crops. The first 2 years harvests failed due to theft, hippos and climatic influences. A good fence around the property has been financed by us and was realized by Mary and Elliot. At our suggestion they planted some Moringa trees (in the fence) This tree produces various edible products¹.



Because of the impending food shortages, the WoHF asked us to support an agricultural project. We contacted Johannes Bos in Zomba who has developed a sustainable farming method: Foundations for Farming, FfF, also known as Farming God's Way. The WoHF visited Johannes and his project in Zomba; they came back very excited.

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, 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 WoHF then wrote a project proposal: a Twin-Farming project which consists of the combination of growing maize and a chicken farm producing manure. Johannes trained - at our request and funded by us – Mary and members of the community in Mangochi. We gave an advance payment to start a pilot to growing crops in this way. Mary and Elliot involved the whole community in this project, neighbours share the knowledge and the irrigation system. Thanks to a financial contribution from the Remonstrant Church, WoHF was able to purchase a water pump and pipes for irrigation. Furthermore, it paid for the purchase of seed, cow dung and dried grass and for the preparation of the soil for agriculture.

Despite several setbacks (overpriced chicken manure, ant infestation, stalkborers in the maize, and the long time to wait for the funds from Holland to arrive, so that the neighbors lost their confidence) the first harvest is a fact! Besides maize they have grown various kinds of vegetables and chickpeas.



Irrigation



Results!!



The money we have received from the Pelgrimshoeve will be used for a six week course that Elliot and Charles (a farmer) will attend in Blantyre. This course includes instructions concerning sustainable agricultural practices as well as business and management training.

4.3 Literacy project.

A group of women from the Tulongosole group in Mangochi, Malawi, participated in 2014 in a training Economic Empowerment organized by our partner organization, the Window of Hope Foundation (WoHF). Cordaid contributed financially to this. This training helped women to set up their own businesses. The group also runs a village bank where women can borrow small amounts of money. The training taught the women the necessary management skills. They indicated that they would like to receive further education, starting with a course in reading, writing and arithmetic.

The project will cost 2500 euros. This covers training of the teachers, costs of materials and monitoring by the WoHF. Duration of the project is more than one year, with the evaluation and follow up. Mary has written a comprehensive project proposal.

We have applied for this project with Cordaid in December 2016; they will contribute 495 euro. The WoHF contributes the equivalent of 25 euro in natura. The amount still required is 1980 euro. Mary indicated they could start as soon as we guaranteed the financing. We have two applications running and expect that we will be getting the required amount in 2017. In order to start the project now, we have advanced € 2000. The project will start in January 2017. Cordaid expects a final report by the end of 2017.

4.4 Toys

Early 2016, we transferred almost 2,000 euros to WoHF, from a collection in the Dominican Church in Amsterdam and from bulb sales. That money was used in the four educational day care centers to buy toys and for the construction of a kitchen and providing food. We received a transparent report about this activity that we sent to the Dominican Church.

4.5 Miscellaneous

A project plan for some courses in Community Empowerment in Malawi, based on the book written by Mary and Leida, is ready to be implemented.

The courses are to be given at colleges where community workers (in various disciplines) are being trained and also to these field workers. There is no funding available yet .

There has been a request from Elliot: SOS for Brighton Kapito, an application for a scholarship. We have passed this request on to Oliver Ntenje who has a Foundation for this purpose (Mangochi). Maybe we will succeed in 2017.

4.6 Publicity

We have a website where the progress of the projects is posted. Twice a year we send out a newsletter to members on our mail chimp list. For our own use we have a news bulletin which is also mailed to the WoHF. It contains the latest information about Malawi through links to specific articles / news. We are looking for more ways to make use of social media in our communications and fundraising.

4.7 Partners and other “ associates”

Annette van Dijk from Afripads foundation, who will be staying in Zomba for 3 years to set up a distribution network for washable sanitary pads. She provides us with locally made cotton shopping bags which we sell.

Movares. An architect from Movares designed offices and a Community Hall for Hope Business Center. At the moment, there is no plan or money to start building.

5. Board

5.1 General data

The board of the Quality Center in 2016 consisted of Anne-Marie Voorhoeve (Chair), Chantal Gill'ard (Secretary), Martine Teeselink (Treasurer) and Farida Farhadpour (Member).

In november 2016 a new board was installed. The new members are Liesbeth Arends (Chair), Liesbeth Redeke (Secretary) and Leida Schuringa (Treasurer).

Contact adress: Abraham Bloemaertstraat 14, 3514 VP Utrecht

Website: www.qcnetwerk.nl

Website Hope Business Centre: www.hopebusinesscentre-malawi.com

Facebook pagina Quality Centre: www.facebook.com/qcnetwerk

Facebook pagina Window of Hope Foundation: www.facebook.com/pages/Malawi-Window-of-Hope

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

5.2. Approach

Our method is that first WoHF writes a plan with a budget. This may be comprehensive or short. Then we try to find sponsors for it. We also generate money for general expenses such as bank charges, the cost of hosting a website, to pay the accountant or for purchasing things we sell such as bulbs and bags. Recently we started to recruit regular donors

6. Plans for 2017

The ongoing projects will continue through 2017, or may be finalized:

- The training of teachers for the literacy course has started. More women than were registered, will be able to participate.
- We have almost collected the necessary funds for Chitowa, we hope to start construction in May. Rebuilding Chitowa is part of a wider plan for building and equipping a further two educational nurseries. The funding for this may be a next project.
- Agriculture: in April, Elliott and Charles will attend a six-week training by Foundations for Farming; they will be taught sustainable agriculture as well as financial and management skills. We hope to find sufficient funds to also set up a chicken farm (to include procuring manure), the complementary project of Twin Farming. In dialogue with WoHF we are thinking about the next steps to extend this project.
- We join in projects of the municipality of Utrecht under Utrecht4GlobalGoals, aiming to get more publicity and more donors.
- Projectplan for Training Community Empowerment.
- Expected donations in 2017: the tips of cafe Averechts (for the literacy project), an offering in the Dominicus Church in Amsterdam (for an ECD), and we will be selling second hand goods again at the Freemarket (for the Wild Geese project).