



Quality Centre Malawi

Annual Report 2017

Quality Centre works together with its partner organisation
the Window of Hope Foundation in Mangochi, Malawi

Utrecht, April 2018

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1. Introduction

2017 was another year of famine in Malawi. Much is needed to support the development of this very poor country. What we can do as a Quality Center is not more than a drop in the ocean. Nevertheless, we are proud of the projects that our partner, the Window of Hope Foundation, can implement with our support.

Important for our collaboration was Liesbeth Redeke's visit to Malawi in October 2017, where she visited a number of "our" projects in and around Mangochi and consolidated the connection with WoHF board and management.

In 2017 a number of ongoing projects were (partly) completed and new goals were developed. The construction of the Early Childhood Development Center (ECD) in Chitowa was nearing completion and the literacy courses started. An irrigation system for the agricultural project was installed and people were trained in organic farming methods.

The collaboration with the Window of Hope Foundation went well, although there were many challenges, for example to keep the communication going, due to the regular power failure in Mangochi.

You may read the development in this report. Enjoy it.

On behalf of the working committee Malawi:

Pim Brackenhoff

Jos van Dijk

Leida Schuringa

Liesbeth Redeke

The board:

Chair: Liesbeth Arends

Secretary: Liesbeth Redeke

Treasurer: Leida Schuringa



The agriculture project in Ngalamo (Mary Sibande on the left)

2. Looking back

Since 2011, the Malawi working group of the Quality Center (QC) foundation has been working steadily on various projects. After the completion of the Community Empowerment Handbook by

Mary Sibande and Leida Schuringa, several other projects were started in collaboration with the Window of Hope Foundation (WoHF), of which Mary is director. These were also realized under the umbrella of Quality Center.

The transition from Quality Center Refugee Women to QC Malawi was formalised. Leida Schuringa became treasurer and Liesbeth Redeke became secretary of the foundation board. Liesbeth Arends became chairman. In November 2016, this board was registered with the Chamber of Commerce.

The archives of QC Refugee women are stored and managed by QC Malawi. The website is now entirely dedicated to the Malawi project (see www.qcnetwerk.nl). The Facebook account has changed name.

3. Cooperation of 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. They met around 16 times in 2017, almost always complete. One of the group members is ultimately responsible for each project.



See paragraph 5 for the board of Stichting Quality Centre .

In Malawi

These are the board members 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 is the operations manager at WoHF. We are mostly dealing with Mary.

3.2 Communication with Mary and WoHF



Originally Mary is a nurse/midwife. Over the years she became more and more involved in mother and child care and through training she became an expert in the field of prevention and public health with a passion for Community Empowerment. In 2015 in Kenya at the Great Lakes University of Kisumu she achieved a Master's degree in Community health and development. She does not yet have a suitable job despite her many qualifications. She spends a lot of her time on the WoHF projects.

In 2016 we started a What'sApp group. It works very well for the communication, both for photos about the progress and for short messages. Mary regularly reports on the progress of projects and writes project proposals. Leida and Mary regularly skype or call via Whatsapp.

3.3 Our mission as formulated in 2016

We have faith in the strength, talents and qualities of every person. With the help of the Community Empowerment method (CE) we want to support people and communities to optimally develop and use their strength and talents, when and wherever they need a helping hand.

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 working group consist largely of looking for funds and other resources to finance projects in the Mangochi district. The projects are instigated by the Window of Hope Foundation. The intention is that the projects will eventually be able to continue without external financing and that sufficient money is earned locally to be able to execute projects that fall under the objectives of the WoHF. The QC working group provides solicited and unsolicited advice and sometimes contributes (suggestions for) solutions. It also supports the drafting of project and business plans.

In addition, the working group intends to further introduce the CE principles and to promote them in Malawi, in collaboration with Mary Sibande and local authorities.

4. Ongoing projects

4.1 Early Childhood Development Centre in Chitowa

The (re) construction of the ECD in Chitowa, Mangochi district, is part of a larger project, namely refurbishing and (re) building a total of three ECD's.

The Center in Chitowa should serve as an example for the surrounding villages. If it is a success, it can stimulate other communities to also invest energy and material in educational nurseries. The "bottom-up" initiatives that arise, where people make their own choices and plans, will result in improved access to education in rural areas. And so ultimately in improved living conditions. Chiefs of surrounding villages have already indicated that they also would like such an ECD for their communities, but they have to draw up their own plan.



Almost
completed
ECD in
Chitowa

In addition to money, there is a need for (locally poorly obtainable) English-language kindergarten books and toys. We have already sent some and a lot was taken by Liesbeth during her visit in October. The donated children's clothes were also very welcome and partly went to the orphans sponsored by WoHF.

Financing

Wilde Ganzen has accepted this Chitowa project in 2016. In May 2017 the total amount of € 7615 was available, of which € 5200 was supplied by QC, the rest was supplemented by Wilde Ganzen. We stood on many markets and meetings with banners of Wilde Ganzen. e.g. with two stands at the Vrijmarkt in Utrecht on Koningsdag (revenue € 1440). Furthermore, we sold organic flower bulbs, Malawian bags at Christmas markets and other locations.

4.2 Agriculture

Thanks to our financial contribution the Window of Hope Foundation was able to acquire a piece of land in 2013 (13,000 m², 1.3 hectares, a lease for 50 years). The goal is to build offices and a large Community Hall, and ultimately generate income for WoHF through lease of office buildings (Hope Business Center). Due to a lack of investors and local knowledge to develop business plans combined with the threat of famine, it has been decided to use the plot to grow maize and other consumer

crops for the time being, in an organic way.



In the first few years the harvest failed several times due to theft, hippo's and climate influences. A much needed fence around the plot has been financed by us and realized by Mary and Elliot.

On our suggestion a number of Moringa trees has been planted. This tree supplies various edible products.¹

The WoHF has asked us to support this agricultural project. In 2016, we contacted Johannes Bos in Zomba who developed a green farming method there: Foundations for Farming, FfF, also known as Farming God's Way. They promote organic, sustainable agriculture, including an irrigation system and the use of chicken manure. The WoHF has written a project application: the Twin-Farming project, which consists of the combination of growing maize with a chicken farm (to produce chicken manure). The plan for the chicken farm turned out to be not feasible at this moment.

Johannes gave instructions on the spot in Mangochi and we have given an advance for a pilot with the cultivation of corn in this way. Mary and Elliot have involved the entire community: the occupants of adjacent plots benefit from the knowledge and the irrigation system. Despite setbacks (chicken manure far too expensive, an ant plague, stalk borers who nestled in the corn), there was a first harvest! In addition to corn various types of vegetables and chickpeas were also been grown. With the aid of a financial contribution from the Remonstrant Brotherhood the WoHF was able to buy a water pump and tubes for the irrigation system and to build a water tower. The purchase of seed, cow manure and dried grass for mulching was also financed with it.

The money of another donation was spent on a 6 week course, which Elliot and Charles (Lilongwe farmer) attended in 2017. This course included instruction on organic farming methods and other possible initiatives (making jams, keeping bees for honey, growing mushrooms) as well as business and management training.

Charles and Elliot then visited the villages where the WoHF is active and provided information about organic farming methods and a healthy diet.

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.*

4.3 Literacy project

Women from the Tulongosole group in Mangochi, Malawi, who participated in the Economic Empowerment course in 2014, organized by the WoHF, have set up a village bank where women can borrow small amounts. This training offered the women the necessary management skills. They have indicated that they would like to follow further education, starting with a 'reading and writing' course because a large number of the women is illiterate.

The literacy project was budgeted at € 2500 including training of the teachers, costs of material and monitoring by the WoHF. The duration of the project is more than one year, including evaluation and follow-up.



The training of the teachers started In January 2017. Ten teachers were trained, who can teach five groups. The Tulongosole group as well as the women of Ngalamo (who are involved in the agriculture project) have started the reading and writing course.

During the visit of Liesbeth they showed their progress enthusiastically. There is still a lack of teaching materials, especially in books. That's why we transferred money at the end of 2017 to make copies of the textbooks. This was funded from a private donation.



Financing

We applied for funding from Cordaid at the end of 2016 and € 495 was promised. The WoHF itself makes a small contribution of € 25, so another € 1980 was needed. We were able to advance € 2000 so that they could already start. During 2017 we looked for money and received € 2000 from the Re-Sell recycling shop. Cordaid expects a final report in December 2017.



5. Visit of Liesbeth Redeke to WoHF in Mangochi

Liesbeth wanted for some time to go (once again) to Malawi; a visit to WoHF and our shared projects was a good reason.

She learned from her own experience what the bottlenecks were in the agricultural project, in particular finding a non-chemical way to combat ants turned out to be a challenge. She suggested, among other things, to look for ant-resistant crops. She also shared thoughts about improving the irrigation system.

She witnessed the impending completion of the ECD in Chitowa and symbolically handed over the keys to the local chief, along with the chairman of the WoHF board of directors, Sultan/chief Chowe. Toys and clothes were also handed out. The caretakers of the Centre indicated their need for formal training.





Participants of literacy courses showed her their progress and it became clear that a follow-up to the course would be very useful (Tulongosole group)

Finally, Mary and Liesbeth organized a symposium with the title *Sharing a Vision*. The aim was to have representatives of various projects share their experiences and show representatives of the (district) government what can be achieved with Community Empowerment. It was also a good opportunity to promote the WoHF in Mangochi: media representatives (radio and television) were present.



6. Community Empowerment

There is a plan for a number of Community Empowerment courses in Malawi, based on the book written by Mary and Leida. The courses are aimed at teachers at colleges where community workers (in various disciplines) are trained, and at the field workers themselves.

No funding has yet been found for this. In 2017 it was decided to adapt the plan to changing conditions in Malawi. Mary and Leida are working on this.

7. Varia

Mary is the driving, planning and guiding force in the WoHF. We have discussed our concerns regarding problems with the continuity of projects that could arise if she were to become incapacitated or if she would have less time due to a busy job. We have drawn up a profile that a substitute or assistant would have to meet. For example, we think that a candidate should have a college education. Mary thinks that someone's passion for this type of work is more important than the level of education, especially since there is no money to pay a salary. Mary is also worried that after a few years of gaining experience, this person will find a paid job somewhere else and that all

her guidance has been in vain. She does have several people in mind, but these are not yet available or only want to help out occasionally under the direction of Mary of Elliot.

Following a request for financing a college education for Brighton Kapito, one of the first orphans of the WoHF, we contacted the Mangochi-Malawi foundation. This foundation has found a sponsor who sponsors the entire study and has a contact person in Mangochi who stays in touch with Brighton and Mary.

Leida Schuringa and Rob van Drunen wrote an article for the Pioneer magazine about the first results of the agricultural project. How organic agriculture according to Mary Sibande (director of the WoHF) can make an important contribution to improving the quality of life for the poorest. The article also discusses the importance of using fitting 'language' to inform cooperating partners in developing countries about concepts such as organic farming and sustainability.

Publicity

We have a website where people can view the progress of the projects. Twice a year we send a newsletter via our mailchimp list. To keep us up to date we have a Malawi news bulletin that is also emailed to the WoHF. This contains the latest information about Malawi via links to certain articles and news items. We have flyers to hand out (designed by our board chairman) and T-shirts with our logo and mission. We are still looking for ways to make greater use of the social media in our communication and fundraising.

Partners

In 2017 we cooperated with:

- Annette van Dijk of the Afripads foundation, who lives in Zomba for 3 years to set up a distribution network for washable sanitary napkins. She arranges for us the production of the cotton bags that we sell.
- Annemarie Besamusco from Utrecht who wrote and produced a booklet about a refugee creature Dwarkje and donated the proceeds of the sale to Unicef and Quality Centre. We also sell this booklet on our stands.
- Utrecht4Global Goals. We were invited to take part in some activities. Our bags, Dwarkje booklets and the book Community Development were for sale through the Global Goals webshop but that was no success.
- Dance school Touchee that did a project for Global Goals.

8. Board of directors

In 2017 The board of Foundation QC consisted of

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

In the course of 2017, Liesbeth Arends indicated that she wanted to stop as chairman of QC. We have found Henk Krijgsheld willing to take over the chair in 2018. There have been three board meetings in 2017.

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

9. Finances

This is how we work: the WoHF first writes a proposal including a budget, sometimes very extensive , sometimes short. Then we try to find funding for this plan. In addition, we generate money for general expenses such as bank charges, the cost of hosting the website, pay the accountant. Also for purchasing things that we sell like flower bulbs and bags. This money comes partly from general donations. We started with recruiting regular donors. See also the financial annual report.

10. Plans for 2018

10.1 Caregivers Course

There is a Malawian government program for training caregivers at ECD's. WoHF can apply for this course (one week, residentially), but WoHF will have to organize it and pay for it (location, catering, and other facilities during the training, transport, monitoring afterwards).

It is difficult to get funding from Wilde Ganzen for a purely educational project. The plan is now to make this course part of a broader project, namely the construction of a small ECD on the plot near Ngalamo (requested by the residents of the village) with accommodation for an employee / night watchman.

10.2 Literacy continued

Ten teachers have been trained, so far 3 groups have been taught. The other teachers should also find employ. The current groups need a follow-up. We expect a proposal for this in 2018. More money and materials will then be needed.

10.3 Agriculture

Elliot has indicated that he needs more support and technical guidance. We hope that someone in Malawi will be able to do this. We are also looking for someone to do an internship from a Dutch college in organic agriculture.

10.4 Community Empowerment

Although the collaboration between Quality Center and the WoHF Community Empowerment started with the writing of the Community Empowerment manual, it turned out to be difficult to implement the use of the book in Malawi. Mary and Leida have regular consultations on this. However, during the visit of Liesbeth it became apparent that the term is widely used in Malawi and the plans of the

government and projects of NGOs also usually refer to Community Empowerment as a spearhead in their policy. See also under point **4.5**.

10.5 Hope Business Center

The original plan includes 3 blocks of offices with associated facilities and a large hall for events. In consultation with Mary and Elliot it will be examined whether a start can be made with one block of offices. This requires water and electricity to be installed.