

LIFE CONCERN ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**PETER
GONDWE**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our team demonstrated resilience, creativity, and compassion. Our staff and volunteers are the heart of our organization. We invested in their growth, well-being, and professional development.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our vision. We will continue to innovate, collaborate, and advocate for positive change. Together, we can create healthy communities, living dignified lives, in a sustainable environment and a brighter future for all.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every one of you who has played a role in our journey. Together, we are crafting a legacy of positive impact, and the possibilities for the future are boundless.

I am honoured to present our Annual Organizational Report for the Financial Year 2023. Over the past year, we have achieved significant milestones and overcome challenges. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to advance our mission and serve our community. I would like to personally thank every team member for their energy, commitment, and consistency in driving our organization forward throughout the year 2023. We made extraordinary progress this year.

Here are some highlights:

We launched several initiatives that directly impacted the lives of our beneficiaries within Rumphi district and beyond, hitting a record of about 96% beneficiary satisfaction. From education support and health service delivery to gender, women empowerment and child protection, our programs have made a difference and contributed towards achieving the global UN SDGs, Malawi Vision 2063, and other sectoral policies and strategies. Our success would not have been possible without the support of our partners, stakeholders, and volunteers. Together, we have built strong networks and amplified our impact. We maintained financial stability and transparency. Our commitment to responsible resource management ensures that every dollar is used effectively to achieve our goals.

96%

Client Satisfaction Rate

\$226.5K

Total Revenue

65.0%

Expanded Our Client Base



ORGANISATION OVERVIEW



- LICO exists to empower the community leading to informed decisions. The organisation was established in 2008 and is registered with the government of Malawi under the Trustee Incorporation Act (Certificate TR/INC 4822). LICO is also registered with the Council of Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi and the NGO Regulatory Authority.
- The organisation’s current strategic plan runs from 2022 to 2025. To implement its strategic plan, LICO collaborates with district-level government stakeholders and CSOs. At the community level, we engage and collaborate with the community systems and structures in order to deliver results that are relevant and sustainable.



**“Healthy Communities,
Living Dignified Lives, in a
Sustainable Environment”**

**“To Collaborate and
Empower Communities to
Access Equitable and
Quality Health, Education
and Human Rights
Services, and Mitigate
Effects of Climate
Change”**





PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

In 2023, we implemented quite a number of interventions in health, education, child protection, women empowerment and sports. With our interventions, we reached a total of 19,280 people in 2023 as compared to 11,700 people reached in 2022, representing 65% increase in people reached. Education interventions had the highest reach at 41% seconded by child protection at 25%. Health interventions contributed 18.6% of the total reach while women empowerment, mental health and sports reached 15.4%. We implemented the following interventions in 2023:



HEALTH

- HIV/AIDS Prevention Service, Testing and, Treatment.
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights services.
- Nutritional support.
- Menstrual Hygiene Management.



EDUCATION

- School bursary support.
- Library development.
- Construction of school infrastructure.
- Digital literacy training and awareness.
- Provision of learning and teaching materials.



CHILD PROTECTION

- Awareness on child sexual abuse prevention.
- Promote male engagement in fighting against child sexual abuse through He for She Clubs.
- Child sexual abuse case management services.



RESEARCH & MENTAL HEALTH

- Provision of psychosocial and material support to women victims of natural disasters.
- Research to determine inter-relationships between mental health, GBV and climate change.



WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

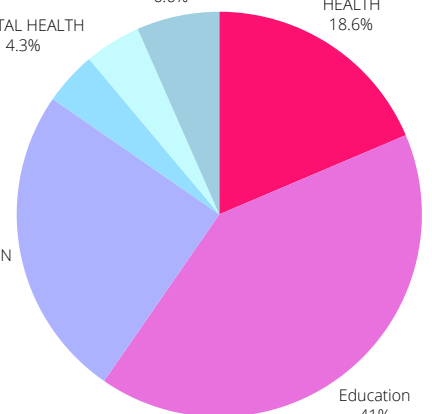
- Crop and Livestock Production
- Village Savings and Loans.
- Small Scale Businesses
- Participation in Governance Structures



SPORTS

- Provision of sports equipment in schools and community clubs.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT 6.6%
HEALTH 18.6%
MENTAL HEALTH 4.3%



65%

Increase in people reached cumulatively





EDUCATION

Educations is one of the LICO's key programmatic pillars in which we seek to increase access to quality education among children and young people from rural and vulnerable communities .

According to UNESCO, Malawi has a total of 4.5m pupils enrolled in primary and secondary education. Of these pupils, about 3.7m (83%) are enrolled in primary education. In Malawi, 11% of children who are of official primary school ages are out of school, with poorer children most likely to fall into this category. Among others, issues like unconducive learning environment and lack of school fees are the leading causes to low school enrolment and increased dropouts. To address the identified gaps, we implemented the following interventions in 2023:

- We supported 11 government primary schools with a total 468 classroom desks, 32 schools with study solar lamps and learning materials, directly serving over 4,300 learners.
- We supported construction of a school classroom block at Mayembe Primary School, directly serving 120 students.
- We provided bursary scholarships to 45 needy students, and school uniforms to 320 students.
- We trained 360 out of school young people (Boys - 190 and Girls - 170) in digital literacy and computer skills and linked them to employment and business opportunities.
- We supported Mhaju, Bumba and Bolero Primary Schools' libraries to ensure that students fully utilize the library services, through provision of library books, capacity development in library management and construction of the library infrastructure, directly serving 2,800 students.

41.0%

7,905 People reached with education interventions





CHILD PROTECTION

Preventing violence against children is one of our key thematic areas. We seek to reduce incidences of violence against children through increased awareness, promotion of rights, and apprehending perpetrators.

Sexual violence against children knows no boundaries and occurs across all parts of society. It can take the form of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and exploitation. NO CHILD should experience this horrific brutality. Yet, children in Malawi experience high rates of violence with one in five girls and one in seven boys experiencing sexual violence. Most children who are sexually abused in Malawi experience it on multiple occasions. To address these horrific acts, LICO implemented the following interventions in 2023:

- Establishment of He for She Clubs in 3 Primary schools and trained a total of 120 learners as champions in ending GBV prevention. The trained champions reached out to 3,600 fellow learners.
- Intensified awareness raising in schools and communities using education toys, and radio programs and collaborating with law enforcement agents to implement mobile court hearings and judgements right in the communities.
- We worked with community-based structures such as women forums and child protection committees to build their capacity on their roles with regard to prevention and management of child abuse cases. 13 women forums and 10 child protection committees were trained.
- We worked with children with disabilities on self defense mechanisms and assisted with walking aids and other social needs.



25.0%

4,820 people reached with child protection interventions.





HEALTH

Women report greater barriers to healthcare and adhere to more traditional gender roles than men in Malawi. In 2023, through our interventions in health, we reached a total of 3,586 people, representing 18.6% of the overall total number of people reached by our interventions. LICO is implementing health interventions in Rumphi district targeting adolescent girls and young people, women of reproductive health, female sex workers and people living with HIV.

- LICO championed the male involvement in elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of new HIV infections (eMTCT) at Mwazisi Health Centre, reaching to a total of 2,101 couples, adolescents, and HIV-exposed infants with HIV testing, treatment and awareness services. 16 cases of lost follow-ups were linked back to care and treatment through a health facility-based teen club.
- LICO established 30 community-based study circle groups which act as HIV community information hubs for men and women of reproductive age groups. Through this approach, male involvement in health services increased to 95.0% while home deliveries decreased to 0.4%.
- 20 girls' peer leaders and 20 female sex workers were trained in peer leadership, life skills and HIV/AIDS management. The trained peer leaders acted as community gatekeepers ensuring that HIV/AIDS and SRHR information services are disseminated. Through the trained peer leaders, 485 young people were linked to the health facility to access youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.
- A total of 85 women and adolescents living with HIV were linked to nutritional care and support.
- Through the menstrual health interventions, 915 girls received reusable sanitary pads and menstrual health education.

18.6%

3,586 People reached through health related interventions





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a serious development challenge in Malawi. Women and girls in Malawi fare worse than their male counterparts on socio-economic indicators including secondary and tertiary education enrolment and completion, wage equality, political participation, and literacy.

Under women's economic empowerment, LICO seek to empower vulnerable groups of women, economically, through support in livelihood and agriculture activities. In 2023, we worked with vulnerable groups of women to achieve the following:

- We supported 43 women groups, with farm inputs to pursue agricultural activities. The groups grew varieties of farm crops and livestock production. From the crop farming activities, the groups realized \$15.3K while livestock production generated \$23.9K at the end of the year. This is a big milestone for women groups as some were able to build houses and others paid school fees for their children. 380 women championed the interventions.
- We built the capacity of 960 women in financial literacy, digital marketing and cyber security.



6.6%

1,272 women reached with economic empowerment interventions.





RESEARCH & MENTAL HEALTH

Gender-based violence and mental health issues are often hidden behind the face of the physical devastation that is occurring as a result of climate change. Recently, Cyclones caused extensive devastation in Malawi where the flooding has resulted in hundreds of lives lost and extensive displacement. Once displaced from their homes by such climate extremes - women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence: significantly limiting their life opportunities. This not only violates human rights but also impedes development gains, as it undermines physical and mental health, prevents women from assuming leadership and decision-making roles, and impacts the economy through increased health expenditure and reduced productivity. Overall, this threatens the achievement of sustainable development.

In view of the above, LICO partnered with the Glasgow Caledonian University, Mzuzu University and University of Rwanda to conduct research titled “A Determination of the Inter-relationship between Gender-Based Violence, Mental Health and Climate Justice for Progressive Social Change in Malawi” targeting disaster affected districts such as Rumphi, Blantyre and karonga

The research study also provided supportive psychosocial mental health counselling to women who were recovering from the disaster shocks. The project also provided relief basic necessities to the affected women headed households.

A total of 868 women were reached by the project interventions.



4.4%

848 women reached through research and relief interventions.





SPORTS

LICO uses sports as a tool to raise awareness and disseminate information about Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, HIV Prevention and treatment and Physical well-being. LICO also uses sports as an opportunity to expose young talents who may be willing to advance their careers in various sports disciplines.

In 2023, we supported 32 schools and 8 youth clubs with sports equipment. We also supported 4 sports bonanzas.

Our interventions reached 828 people directly.



4.4%

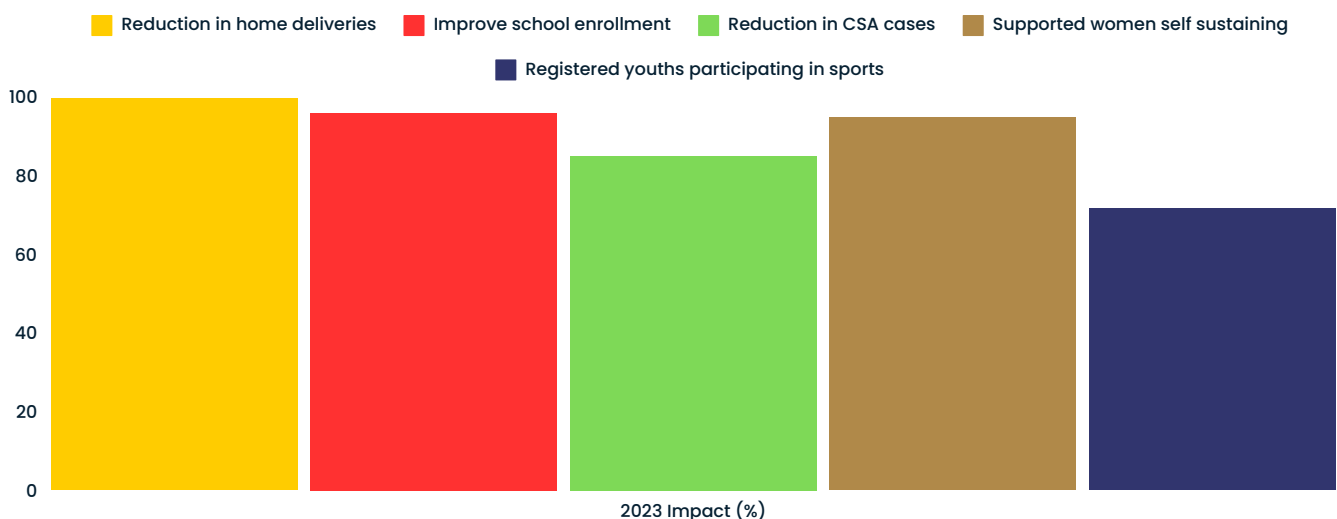
828 people reached through sports interventions.





IMPACT OF OUR INTERVENTIONS

- In 2023, there is a significant progress across our various interventions, each contributing positively to the overall well-being of the lives of individuals in the targeted communities.
- In health, there is a significant reduction in the incidences of home deliveries, especially targeting couples on ART medication, recording only 0.4% in 2023. This was achieved through intensified awareness-raising and meaningful community participation. It is a big milestone in line with the global goal towards achieving zero new HIV infections.
- In education, there is a significant turnaround in terms of school dropouts and academic performance. Of the schools supported by our interventions, 3 emerged the best and were amongst the top best performing schools in Malawi during 2023 Primary School National Examinations. Enrollment in the supported schools improved by 96%.
- In Child Protection, LICO's Education using Toys, an approach to raising awareness about child sexual abuse prevention, is regarded as a role model approach and has been invited for presentations at various national conferences as a best practice. Rumphi was once one of the districts with high prevalence of child sexual abuse cases. In 2023, we witnessed significant drop in new cases of child sexual abuse in both, schools and communities, by 85%.

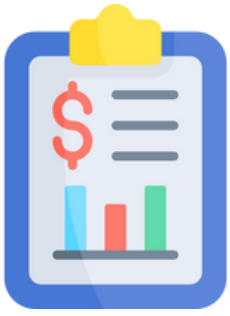




INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING & CREDIBILITY

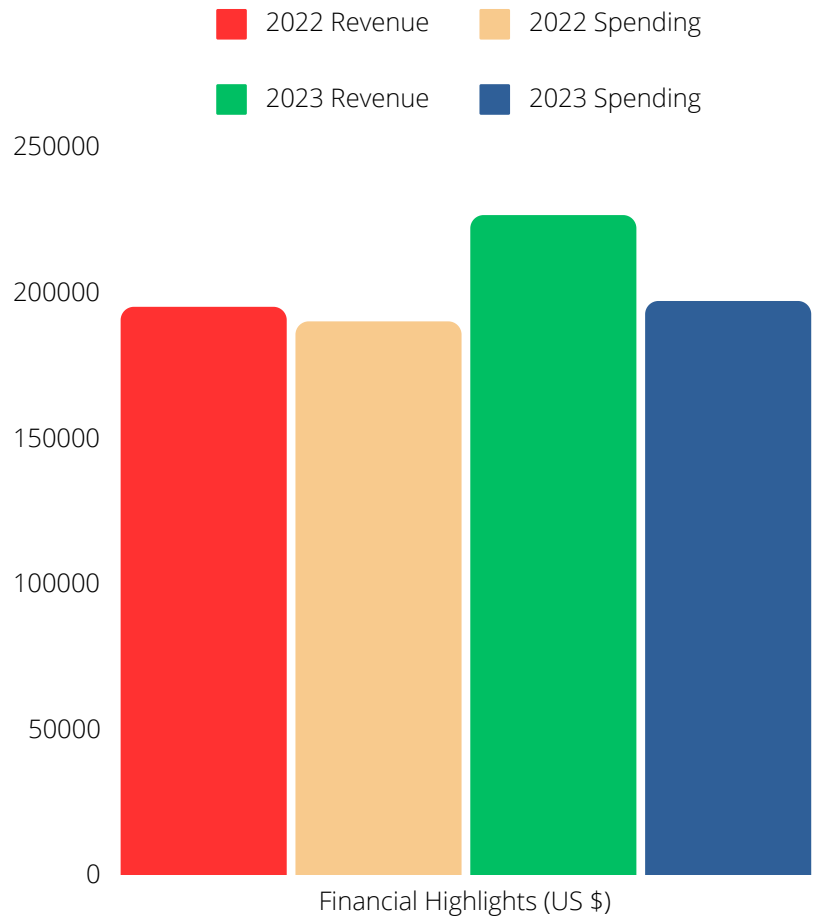
- In 2023, LICO worked with **Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec)**, which is an executive body under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a program that supports global partnerships for sustainable development. Through collaborative work exchanges and the sharing of competence and expertise, Norec helps young professionals develop international expertise in sustainable development.
- Through the program, LICO boasts of a dynamic team of youthful staff members dedicated to enhancing the organization's performance. Presently, we are implementing a collaborative program with Primrose Community Health Organization (PriCHO) from Zambia, focused on facilitating an exchange program. Our aim is to amplify impactful outcomes and cultivate growth opportunities through leveraging the NOREC platform to strengthen capacities and foster robust collaborations. Through the NOREC program, we aim to enhance the productivity and efficiency of our staff by providing training and readiness for international exchange initiatives. These endeavors are tailored to instill participants with intercultural sensitivity, appreciation for diversity, integrity, inclusivity and collaboration, thereby enriching their professional development capacities.
- In 2023, LICO received **the presidential award** as one of the best performing local NGOs in Malawi, in the category of financial prudence, statutory compliance and projects impact. The award provides a special milestone in the organization's history, having achieved similar milestones in 2014 when the organization received a prestigious global UNAIDS award in our role in contributing towards prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.





FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our financial year runs from January to December. In comparison with the 2022 financial year, our annual revenue grew by 14% in 2023. This was the first reported positive growth post-Covid-19 recovery period. The 2023 financial year saw more clients served as compared to 2022. This was due to programming innovations and strategy realignments to ensure that our work was beneficiary centred and that we maintained donor trust. The approaches led to 96% beneficiary satisfaction and were hailed by stakeholders, partners and the regulatory authorities. This led to LICO being recognised as the most transparent, complying, prudent and impactful local organisation in Malawi in 2023 by NGO Regulatory Authority.



Revenue

\$226.5K



Expenses

\$197.3K



Retained Earnings

\$29.2K

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our annual revenue grew by 16% in 2023, as compared to 2022. We impacted more lives in 2023 by 65% as compared to 2022

INCOME STATEMENTS

Revenue	\$226.5K
Expenses	\$197.3K
Retained Earnings	\$29.2K

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	\$81.1K
Liabilities	\$0
Capital Fund	\$81.1K

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Operating	\$33.8K
Investing	\$(4.6K)
Financing	\$0

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Finance and Administration is one of the most delicate tasks which demand utmost professionalism and trustworthy. For the 2023 employee spotlight, we feature Mr. Wanangwa Kanyenda, who serves as the Finance and Administration Officer in the organisation. Mr. Kanyenda has dedicated 4 years of service to LICO, embodying professionalism, positivity, a strong work ethic, and a love for people in his role. His hard work played a vital role in earning Life Concern the first of its kind presidential award as the best complying NGO in terms of financial prudence, statutory compliance and projects impact (value for money).

**WANANGWA
KANYENDA**
FINANCE & ADMIN OFFICER

Performance:

95

Target Achieved:

100%



Mr. Wongani Chilongo, a Project Officer responsible for education interventions, has a diverse background in Nutrition, SRHR, and Teaching. His transition to being project officer reflects his commitment to contributing positively to his community through various education interventions. Under his leadership, education projects had the highest reach and impact in 2023 at 41.0%. He values curiosity as a key to efficiency and problem-solving in both his personal and professional life. His hard work earned 3 primary schools a place in the top 8 best performing schools in Malawi in 2023.

**WONGANI
CHILONGO**
Education Project Officer

Performance:

98

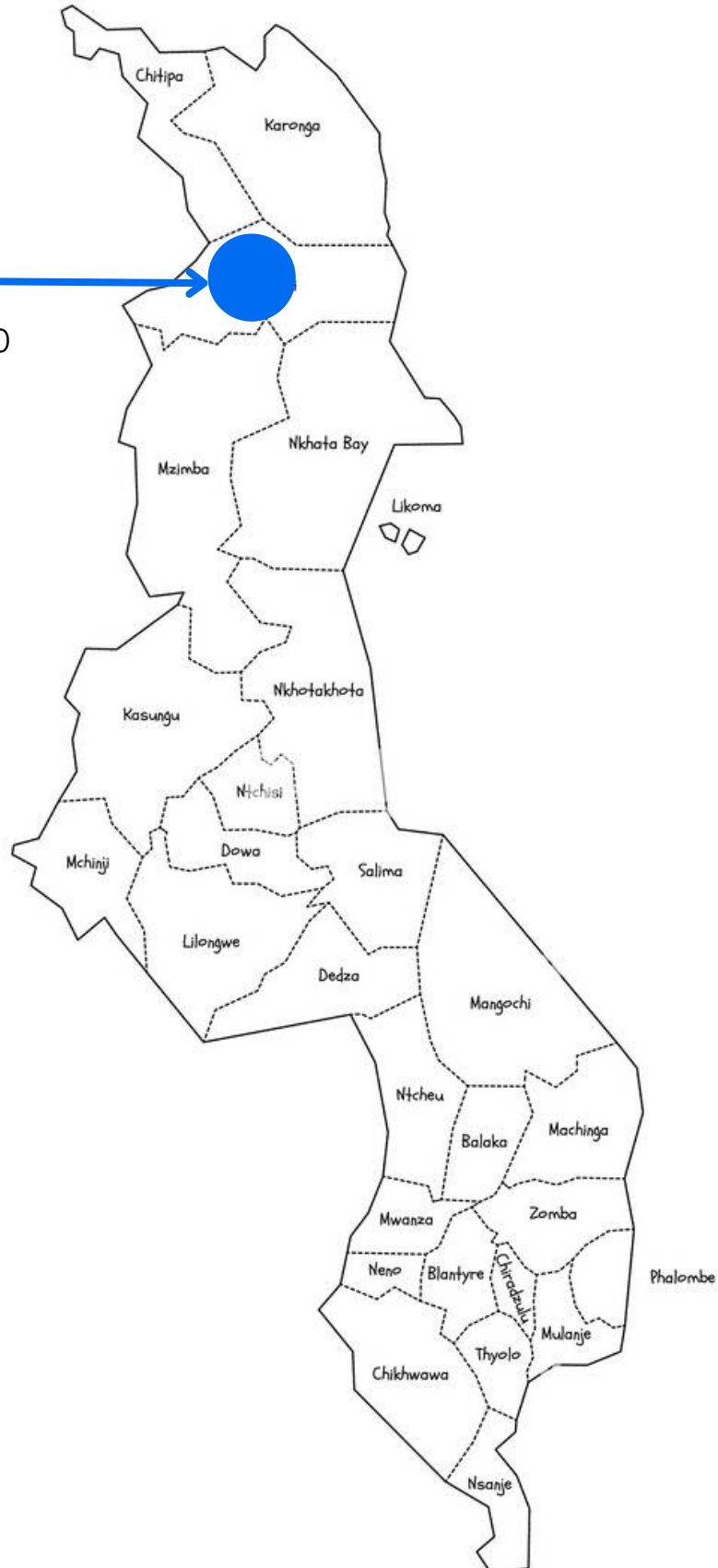
Target Achieved:

100%

CATCHMENT AREA

Rumphi District

- Population - 254,000
- Health Facilities - 16
- Schools - 231





THE FUTURE

LICO's current strategic plan runs up to 2025 and the review will take place towards the end of 2024. Despite good progress towards implementation of the strategic plan, there are identified gaps which will form the next strategic plan. LICO would like to request resources to implement the following strategic needs:

- **Food Security.** Malawi is yet to recover from the shocks of climate change. Over 50% of the population is at risk of facing famine. Malawi has declared state of disaster in the 23 out of 28 districts.
- **Skills Development.** The increased unemployment for young people is a catalyst for the worsening poverty levels. We would like to empower young people with vocational skills for self employment

35.0%

Of the 29,617 direct beneficiaries targeted, only 19,251 have been reached. 35% yet to be reached.





CHALLENGES

- **Food insecurity** - Malawi is facing acute shortage of staple food, and our beneficiaries have not been spared.
- **Mobility** - In 2023, we only had one vehicle and two in-condition motorbikes for the implementation of all the project activities. The availability of reliable transport is a catalyst for the smooth delivery of projects.
- **Inflation** - Due to the devaluation of Malawi's local currency, the prices of goods and services are not stable. This has a direct effect on our budgets. In 2023, the economic environment was not conducive for LICO.

22.0%

4.4 million (22%) Malawians are currently food insecure and the number is expected to triple in mid-2024.

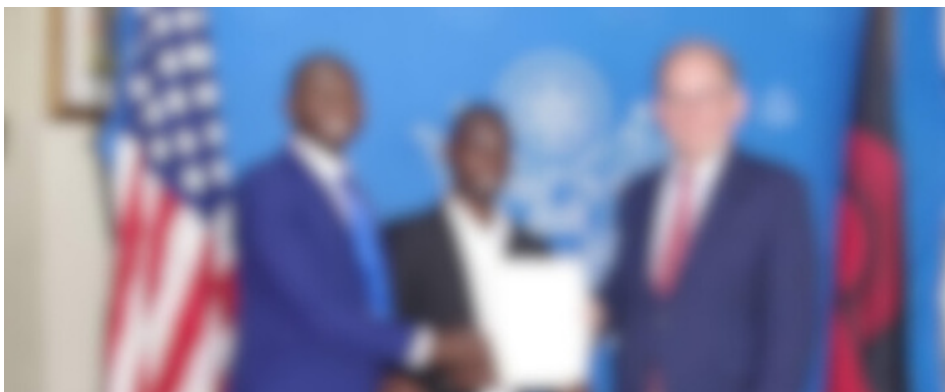




NEW PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, we welcomed **PEPFAR** who funded us a project on increasing access and uptake of HIV prevention services among female sex workers in Rumphu District. We thank PEPFAR for the trust in our work.

In 2023, we also welcomed **Epsilon Foundation** who supported our work in Education infrastructure development. We thank Epsilon Foundation for the trust in our work.



16.0%

New partners contributed to a 16% increase in annual revenue in 2023 and a 65% cumulative total beneficiary reached.





RECOGNISING OUR LONG- TERM FUNDERS

In this report, we would like to give special recognition to **The Egmont Trust, UK** and **The ELMA Masana Wa Afrika** who have supported our work for over 10 years. The Egmont Trust has supported our work since 2013. The ELMA Masana Wa Afrika has supported our work since 2015. We, therefore, extend our heartfelt gratitude and recognition to these long-term funders who have continuously supported our mission to empower and uplift children and women in need.

The funding provided by our dedicated donors has had a profound impact on the well-being and future prospects of children and women within our community. Through their financial contributions, we have been able to implement various programs and initiatives that address the critical needs of women, youths and children, such as education, healthcare, nutrition, shelter, and empowerment. Their generosity has not only transformed individual lives but has also contributed to building stronger families, communities, and societies at large. We are immensely grateful for their partnership and remain committed to advancing our shared vision of a world where every child, youth and woman can thrive.

WITH SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OUR PARTNERS



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