



Annual Report 2022

The Executive Director
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The Executive Director's Speech

Even in the midst of a global pandemic and economic crisis, 2022 was a defining year for Life Concern in Malawi, highlighting the depth of our commitment to change the lives of children, women and other vulnerable population.

We continued to prioritize the emergency response to provide the much-needed relief in schools, hospitals and homes, by raising awareness on COVID-19 and Cholera outbreak preventative measures and helping families and communities rebuild through various forms of support provided through our programmes on health, education, livelihood and food security, water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

As an organization that does its best to see children, women and other vulnerable population thrive, we were inspired to see people in the communities where we work, utilizing every support we provided to strengthen community systems to ensure that women, Girls and Children especially the most marginalized and vulnerable population can exercise their human right to live a life free from HIV/AIDS, Poverty and all forms of violence.

As COVID-19 and Cholera Outbreak ravaged the country, whose impact we still bear, we are glad that our work supported nearly 4,000 people with preventive equipment. Likewise, 6,500 adolescents and young people were provided with sexual reproductive health and rights information and services.

As most people struggled with the pandemic, we are grateful to have still received support to catalyze change and transform lives of children, women and other vulnerable population. Despite such great achievements, dwindling of resources for both programing and operations was one of the biggest challenges faced by LICO in year 2022 as compared to year 2021 and year 2020.

Through this report, may you find joy and fulfillment in knowing that LICO's work in Malawi directly reached 30,000 people. Going forward, I would like to recognize our unsung heroes: the staff of Life Concern, who serve tirelessly to meet the many needs of the most vulnerable children, youth and women.

We renew our commitment to empower communities where all people live free from HIV/AIDS, Poverty and all forms of violence against women, girls and children. This is part of our contribution towards achieving UN SDGs, Malawi Vision 2063, and other sectoral policies and strategies. We hope you will be inspired to join us on this journey of transformation.



Peter Gondwe
Executive Director

Who We Are?

Background

Life Concern Organization (LICO) was established in 2008 in Malawi.

LICO is a non-profit organization and was registered with the government of Malawi under the Trustee Incorporation Act (Certificate TR/INC 4822); Council of Nongovernmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA); and the NGO Board.

Vision

“Healthy communities, living dignified Lives, in a sustainable environment”

Mission

To collaborate and empower communities to access equitable and quality health, education and human rights services, and mitigate effects of climate change.

Core Values

- Integrity
- Transparency
- Unity of purpose
- Accountability
- Sustainability
- Trustworthy

Key Focus Areas

- Health
- Education
- Gender, Women Empowerment and Child Protection.
- Climate Change Adaptation and Food Security
- Institutional Capacity Development

Target Group

- Children
- Girls
- Young People
- Women
- People Living with HIV
- People Living with Disabilities
- Marginalized and Vulnerable communities

The Board

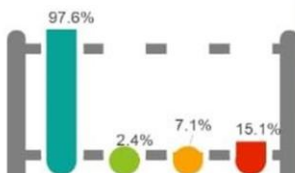
LICO has well qualified and skilled Board of Directors consist of 5 members. These include: Ulemu Kumwenda (Chairperson),

Our Catchment Area

2021-2022 (2yrs) Summary Impact

- 97.6% Facility deliveries
- 2.4% Home deliveries
- 7.1% Babies born with HIV
- 15.1% Still on the antenatal program at the end of year 2

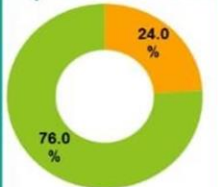
Data showing PMTCT results for 2021 & 2022



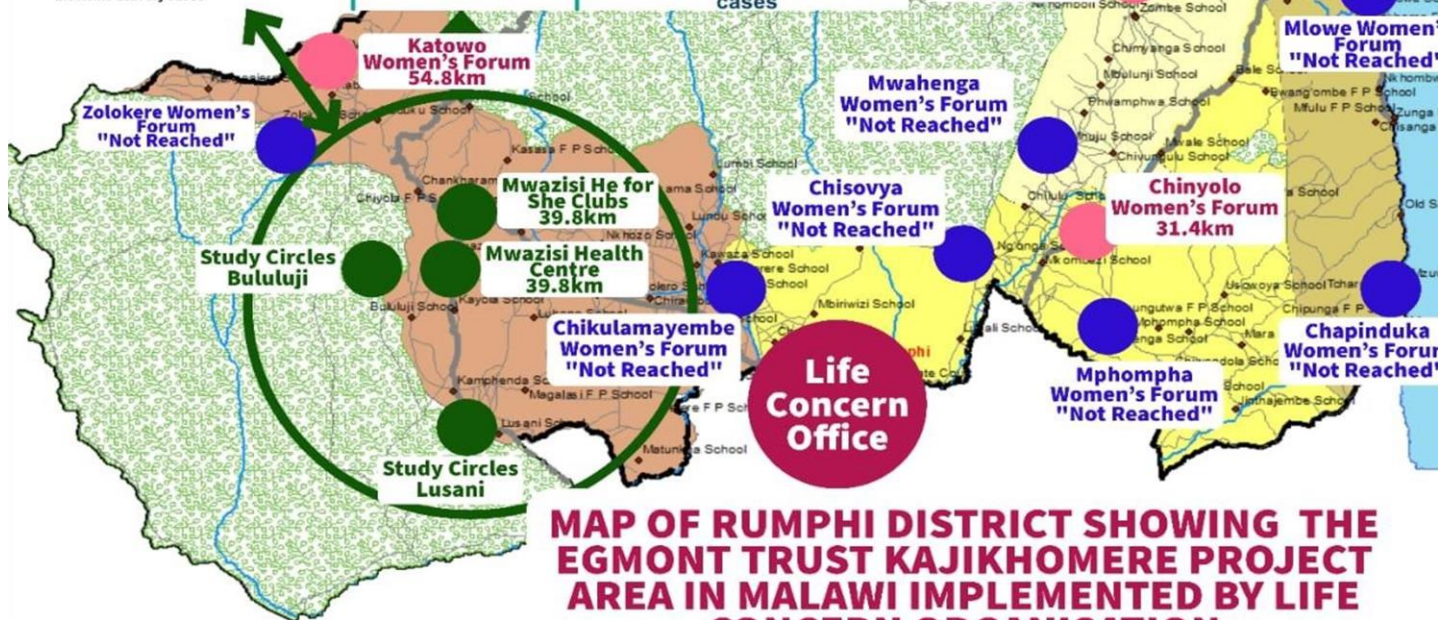
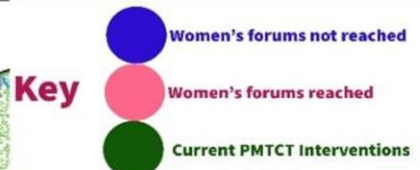
Note: Out of 28 pregnant women on ART, only 3 deliveries tested positive. All of them were the home delivery cases

- 24.0% Still being monitored
- 76.0% Achieved viral suppression

Data showing the impact of Teen Club



Data showing defilement cases



Impact

Health

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of New HIV Infections (PMTCT)

Life Concern (LICO) is committed to contribute towards ending HIV as a public health in Malawi through PMTCT project, so that expose babies are born free from HIV. During this reporting period, LICO implemented PMTCT project in Mwazisi Communities of TA Chikulamayembe in Rumphidistrict – Malawi with the goal of improving living condition of mothers and children living with HIV. The intervention were focused on two major outcomes which include: Increased demand, access to and uptake of PMTCT services among women living with HIV; and Increased access to HIV/AIDS Care, Treatment and psychosocial services by Adolescents living with HIV.

Key interventions ranged from improving provision of antenatal clinic services, HIV testing, referral systems between community and health facility, male involvement in PMTCT, follow-ups and counselling to ART defaulters, nutrition support, and community mobilization and awareness raising using community study circle approach.



Antenatal clinic session targeting pregnant women at Mwazisi community health centre in Rumphidistrict,

Summary of Achievements

- 21 community study circle groups were formulated and strengthened on PMTCT
- 13 out of 14 exposed babies born free HIV from HIV mothers at Mwazisi health centre.
- 103 pregnant mothers tested for HIV during ANC clinics
- Male involvement in PMTCT increased to 98% in 2022 from 83% in 2021.
- 54 children living with HIV enrolled on teen club.
- ART adherence rate among teen club members increased to 88% in 2022 from 61% in 2021.
- Health providers at Mwazisi health centre were oriented on Teen Club Management, PMTCT new guidelines and new guidelines for administering ART.
- 65 community leaders and volunteers oriented on their roles in PMTCT program.
- Over 5,500 community members were sensitized on PMTCT, HIV and SRHR information.



Community Study Group information session on PMTCT in area of Lusani village in Mwazisi – Rumphidistrict.

Access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) remain a key challenge among many adolescent and young people in Malawi. Hence, high prevalence of new HIV infections, STIs, teenage pregnancies (29%), child marriages, and school dropout.

In response to this, LICO implemented a programme “Amplifying the voice of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) through advocacy and engagement in local governing structures for improved delivery of SRHR services in Rumphi district”. The goal was to amplify the voices of AGWY by building their capacity to identify emerging issues affecting them and promoting advocacy through AGYW engagement in decision making forums at various levels in local governing structures to improve delivery of comprehensive SRHR services. This program also aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in the acquisition, distribution and utilization of medical supplies at DHO and health facilities in the district.



Young people including adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) conducting sessions to create demand for access to and uptake of SRHR in rural communities of Chitimba health centre in TA Mwalweni in Rumphi. Among other SRHR accessed by young people include HIV testing, modern contraceptives, sexually transmitted infections, and cervical cancer screening and treatment services.

Summary of Achievements

- 4,500 Young people reached with SRHR and CSE information and services including modern contraceptives, HIV testing, and STIs screening and treatment.
- 409 girls and women accessed cervical cancer screening and treatment services.
- 50 AGYW oriented in policy, advocacy and decision-making for improved delivery of SRHR service.
- 50 AGYW aged 15 - 26 years trained on SRHR and CSE
- 16 Health workers oriented on provision of youth friendly health services in 4 health facilities (Chitimba, Mhuju, Bolero and Mzokoto)



Gender Based Violence

Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Life Concern is deeply saddened and concerned by high rates and cases of child sexual abuse in Malawi. Sexual violence has serious effects on children and can result in long-term physical and psychological problems including sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), unwanted pregnancy, stigma, discrimination, physical trauma, psychological distress and learning difficulties. Beyond the horrific impact on individuals, any form of violence leaves severe and long-term scars on families, communities and societies, and results in significant economic and social costs for countries.

In Rumphi district, LICO implemented a project “Improving living condition of the survivors of child sexual abuse using the Edu-toy approach”. LICO was supporting both the government and communities to raise awareness about violence against children, its effects and how to deal with it. Among other interventions were include: strengthening community-based complaints and feedback mechanisms; supporting One Stop Centres for provision of services (counselling, justice and medical) to the survivors; capacity building of women forum on CSA case management; supporting community mobile courts; and building the capacity of service providers such as child protection workers, police, judiciary, social welfare, and health workers on violence against children and provision of appreciate services.



Summary of Achievements

- Established and strengthened the District One Stop Centre, and all members were oriented on CSA case management
- 8 women forms revamped and oriented on CSA case management including referral for justice, counselling and medical services.
- 58 survivors of child sexual abuse were supported to access comprehensive services.
- 12 community mobile courts supported to
- 60 service providers (Child Protection Workers, Social Welfare Officers, Police - Victim Support Unit and Prosecutors, Nurses and Clinicians, Judicial officers’ trained CSA case management.
- Supported “Safe Place” where survivors of CSA are kept pending for case management with assorted items such as food, utilities and security services
- Over 9,500 community people were sensitized on CSA prevention information.
- Established and strengthen He for She chub at Mwazisi primary school
- 30 champions (15 boys and 15girls) were skills and knowledge on preventing, and reporting of all forms of GBV.



School based information sessions on prevention of child sexual abuse using the edu-toy approach. Children in schools are equipped with knowledge and skills on reporting of CSA and how to protect themselves

He for She Club sessions at Mwazisi Primary schools on prevention of GBV

Women Empowerment for Ending Gender-Based Violence Project (WEG-BVP)

Malawi is characterized by a high prevalence of violence against women and girls, from traditional practices that harm girls and teenagers (from sexual initiation rituals to child marriage) to sexual and gender-based violence and intimate partner violence.

Life Concern implemented “Women Empowerment for Ending Gender-Based Violence Project (WEG-BVP)” project in Rumphi district. Its main goal was to reduce incidences of VAWG, SGBV and HP in the targeted communities. The expected outcomes of this project were include: i) increased confidence and competency among women and girls to actively participate and represent in decision making in the governance process; ii) reduced cases of Sexual exploitation and Abuse/VAWG among women and girls; and iii) improved coordination among stakeholders working in WPS to advance women issues and priorities at the district and community level. During implementation, strategies used were capacity building of girls and women, interface meetings with service providers, community mobilization and sensitization, tracking of development results, and learning and knowledge management.



Girls rights groups in Chinyolo during orientation sessions on laws and policies related to ending gender based violence against women and girls

Summary of Achievements

- 18 women and girls rights groups were established and oriented on management GBV cases including early reporting and referral.
- 180 Women and girls were trained on laws and policies related to EAWG, SGBV and HP
- Build capacity of Area Gender Network of Chinyolo and Mwazisi ADCs to enhance coordination and collaboration on EAWG Women and Girls rights groups supported with IGA
- 80 community leaders such Area/Village Development Committees, Chiefs, Religious leaders, and Community Policing were oriented on Laws and policies related to ending violence against women and girls
- Over 3,500 community people were sensitized on ending violence against women and girls
- Dialogue meetings between champions and duty bearers supported
- Translated and printed 200 booklets copies of EAWG laws and policies from English to Vernacular language.



Katowo women forum oriented on GBV case management including reporting, referral and psychosocial counselling.

Education

In Malawi, children from poor families face considerable barriers to access education. Many lack the resources (writing materials, tuition fees, and uniforms) to stay in school, resulting in high rates of early marriage, teen pregnancy, and school drop-out. For decades, children in Rumphi district struggled to learn in crumbling, and dilapidated structures. Students sat on the floor which is not conducive learning environment. Additionally, because of its remote location, the school and the community at large never had access to electricity and the absence of this valuable resource created additional obstacles for the children to make their studies.

In response to this, LICO implemented interventions which breaks down barriers to children's access to education through supporting the most vulnerable children stay in school, learn and thrive. Among other interventions include: providing vulnerable children in schools with basic education support such as fees, uniforms, and writing materials; construction of school libraries and distribution of textbooks in schools; and supporting the school with desks, solar lamps and sporting equipment's.



Eviness Zimba, aged 26 and a nurse by professional. She was one of beneficiaries under LICO school support bursary scheme from 2015 in her secondary to 2022 in her tertiary level of education. Eviness was once a survivor of early child marriage. "I am so grateful to Life Concern for supporting me through", Zimba said.

Summary of Achievements

- 52 vulnerable students in secondary school and 6 in tertiary education were supported with tuition fees.
- 833 children in primary school and 75 students in secondary school were supported with writing materials
- 120 primary school going children (75 girls and 45 boys) were supported with school uniforms in three
- schools (Mwazisi, Kamphenda and Lusani)
- 300 school curriculum textbooks were distributed at Mwazisi and Kamphenda primary school in Mwazisi.
- 11 primary schools were supported with school desks (40 desks per school) in Rumphi district.
- 28 primary schools were supported with solar lamps.
- 28 primary schools were supported with sporting equipment such as footballs and netballs.
- Constructed and refurbished 3 state of art school libraries at Bolero, Mhuju and Bumba primary schools.



The LICO's Executive Director and Director of Education for Rumphi district during donation of desks at Chimyanga primary school in TA Mwahenga in Rumphi.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Menstrual Health Management (MHM)

Girls of menstruation age are worst affected by this and often skip school as a result. It becomes difficult to catch up with other learners which, sadly, translates into a high drop-out rate. One way of keeping girls in school is by addressing girl's menstrual needs. In this reporting period, LICO was so much committed to interventions that were addressing problems related to MHM for girls e support menstrual health and hygiene in schools by providing menstrual sanitary pads and constructing girls change rooms.

Further, LICO was also directly working with schools to improve access to basic water, sanitation and handwashing facilities.

LICO also established LINGA Social enterprise with its mission to its mission to offer high quality and affordable reusable sanitary pads to all girls and women in Malawi. LINGA produces reusable sanitary pads that address key challenges of access, affordability and sustainability and provide leak-proof and comfortable protection for girls and women during their periods.

Summary of Achievements

- 4,500 girls received a pack with reusable pads, underwear and bars of soap.
- Contracted 2 gender separated latrines and 2 girls change rooms at Ng'onga and Lukali primary school.
- Supported mother groups of Ng'onga and Lukali primary school with sawing machine and train them on the production of reusable sanitary pads and distributing them to school going girls.
- Established and strengthen the capacities of girls clubs in 2 primary schools on menstrual health management.
- Established LINGA Social Enterprise for production and selling menstrual products.



Mother group at Ng'onga primary school were trained on production of reusable sanitary pads.



School going girls at Vwaza Community Day Secondary School of TA Zolokere in Rumphi district were supported with reusable menstrual pads.

Emergency Response

Life Concern is committed to breaking the cycle chain of poverty livelihood and food security projects, so that the most the most vulnerable population can reach their full potential. During this reporting period, LICO implemented Kajikhomere project targeting 21 women study circles in Mwazisi community in TA Chikulamayembe and 6 Women forums including Chinyolo, Katowo, Jalawe, Chiweta, Ntchenachena and Phoka in Rumphidistrict. Interventions were focused on two major outcomes - achieving sustained availability of food at household level and improving sustained access to adequate food and income at household level.

Key interventions ranged from livestock farming (pigs, goat, and chickens), crop production (soybean, groundnuts, and maize) and Village savings and loans.

Summary of Achievements

- 21 groups of women were mobilized and provided with agri-farm inputs such as seeds of soybean, groundnuts, and maize.
- 17 groups of women were mobilized and provided with livestock (pigs, goats and chickens).
- 25 groups of women were trained on financial basic literacy, project management and resource mobilization.



Women farmers groups in Rumphidistrict benefited from livelihood and food security project. Among these groups were involved in piggery farming, goat farming, soybean farming, groundnuts farming, cassava farming, rice farming and chicken farming. These groups are coming from Traditional authorities of Kachulu, Katumbi, Mwanikhunikira, Njikula, Chikulamayembe, and Mwalweni.

Amidst the pandemic (Covid-19 and Cholera Outbreak), Life Concern through the humanitarian emergency support showed its commitment to deliver much-needed assistance to the most vulnerable populations Rumphu and Salima districts in Malawi. LICO supported vulnerable population, health facilities, churches, and school with various interventions including awareness raising on preventing the spread of both covid-19 and cholera and provision of personal preventive equipment (PPEs) such as hand washing facilities and medical supplies.

LICO also conducted two research programs: Climate Change & COVID-19 (CCC19): Achieving a Sustainable and Equitable Recovery in Malawi and Rwanda; and A Determination of the Inter-relationship between Gender-Based Violence, Mental Health and Climate Justice for Progressive Social Change in Malawi. LICO implemented these research projects in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU, Mzuzu University and Universities of Livingstonia)

Summary of Achievements

- Over 68,000 community people were sensitized on Covid-19 and Cholera prevention information in Rumphu.
- 17 health facilities (14 in Rumphu and 3 in Salima) were supported with covid-19 PPEs and medical supplies.
- A total of 16,800 community people (women, children, youth, sexworkers, prison inmates and disabled people) were provided with covid-19 PPEs including face-masks and hand-sanitizers.
- 126 public institutions (schools and churches) were supported with hand-washing facilities, liquid soap, sanitizers
- Rumphu DHO was supported with chlorine to be distributed in all government health centres.
- Two research projects were successfully conducted in Karonga and Rumphu district on CCC-19 and GBV, Mental Health and Climate Change.



LICO team donating PPEs and other assorted medical supplies in response to the outbreak of covid-19 and Cholera in Rumphu. Religious community groups, health facilities and schools were among others to benefit.

In response to mental health, gender based violence and climate change, LICO was also supporting the survivors of the same with psychosocial services.



Our Partners

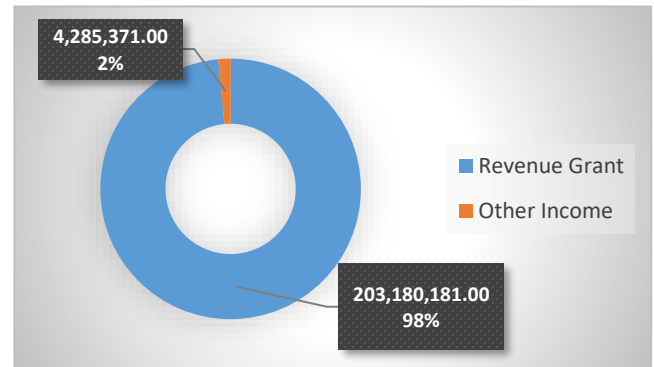
- **Egmont Trust, UK**
- **Elma Foundation**
- **UN Women**
- **The Waterloo Foundation**
- **Glasgow Caledonian University**
- **Her Voice Fund**
- **The Tilitonse Foundation**
- **NOREC**
- **Claudio**

Financial Summary

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

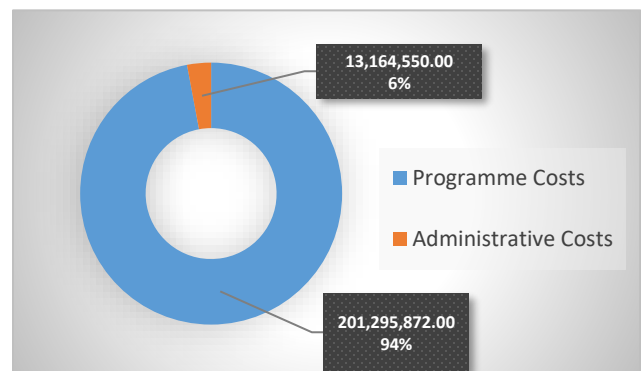
Income

Revenue Grant	MK203, 180,181.00
Other Income	MK4, 281,371.00
Opening Balance	MK10,117,512.00
Total Revenue	MK217, 583,064.00



Expenditure

Programme Costs	MK201, 295,872.00
Administrative Costs	MK13, 164,550.00
Total Expenditure	MK214, 460,422.00



OUR PARTNERS

- The Egmont Trust, UK
- UN Women – Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (UN-WPHF)
- The Tilitonse Foundation, Malawi
- Her-voice Fund
- Glasgow Caledonia University (GCU), Scotland
- Norec
- Elma Foundation
- Claudio