

YAMBA MALAWI

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we look back on the impact our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program has had on children in Malawi over the past year, we are filled with gratitude to all of our amazing community leaders and partners, our dedicated team, and the amazing generosity of supporters like you.

The realities we face in Malawi are often difficult. As an organization, we have committed ourselves to working with the poorest of the poor. Often, families are struggling to provide their children even their most basic needs — food, healthcare, an education. They are faced with erratic environmental challenges, rely on small plots of land to feed their entire family, face devastating health threats, and lack access to safety nets that could prevent them from falling deeper into the cycle of poverty.

The situation is serious. But together, we are changing things.

With help from supporters like you, we are proud of incredible programmatic growth and impact in

2018. This year alone, our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program impacted the lives of over 100,000 children, and gave their communities the skills and support they need to create lasting, sustainable change.

This year, we continued our work with six Community Based Organization partners, helping them with mentorship, strengthening skills around childhood wellbeing, sustainable business, and financial literacy and inclusion. We expanded our household-level projects in Chiseka, welcoming an additional 200 households into the program. We celebrated harvests, empowered peer mentors to be leaders in their community, and established community savings groups that are helping caregivers save money for their children's futures for the very first time. Most importantly, we helped more children get the care they need by strengthening services for children and caregivers' capacity to provide nurturing, protective care.

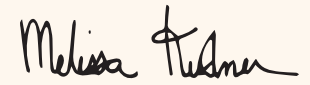
None of our work would be possible without the amazing support of our partners and donors, and we are incredibly thankful for each and every dollar

that helps us address the root causes of childhood vulnerability. Because in Malawi, *yamba* means begin, and this is what your support builds—new beginnings for Malawi's children, and lasting change for their communities. For this and everything you do, we are so grateful.

ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI—a warm Malawian thank you,



Peter Twyman
Executive Director



Melissa Kushner
Founder & Board Chair

One quarter of all Malawians live in extreme poverty, unable to meet their children's most basic needs.

In rural Malawi, the challenges communities faces are vast—from erratic rains and slim harvests to volatile economies and under-resourced social programs. Children are struggling to get the care and resources they need. The effects can last a lifetime.

**YAMBA MALAWI'S CHILDSHOODS & LIVELIHOODS
PROGRAM IS CHANGING THIS.**

Working in over 500 rural villages in Malawi, we understand that when you strengthen community safety nets, increase caregivers' knowledge and resources, and help build more resilient economic environments, children benefit. In 2018 alone, Yamba Malawi strengthened social services at the community-level, doubled the number of vulnerable families in our household-level programs, and touched the lives of over 100,000 children.

**WE ARE WORKING HARD TO ENSURE CHILDREN
NOT ONLY SURVIVE, BUT THRIVE.**





OUR MISSION + VISION



Our mission is to uplift vulnerable children by building businesses and by enabling investment in children's care. Our vision is a world where strong, resilient communities build brighter futures for children.

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



100,000
children impacted



120,000
caregivers empowered



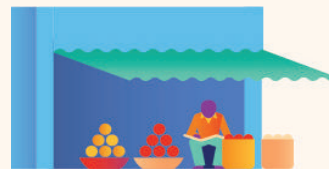
20,000
trees planted



385,000
meals served



8,850
children receiving
school support



6
community-level
businesses operating



400
household-level
businesses operating

HOW IT WORKS

THE THREE COMPONENTS

Through holistic livelihood interventions centered on childhood wellbeing, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship, Yamba Malawi's Childhoods & Livelihoods Program helps children and their communities move out of extreme poverty into livelihoods and mentorship programs that empower them to improve children's food security, health, education, and environments.



CHILDHOOD WELLBEING

Builds supportive environments so children can thrive. Provides coaching to caregivers and links to services around nutrition, education, health, protection, and environment.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Generates ongoing profits to be spent on children. Empowers caregivers with assets and entrepreneurship training, so they can launch their own sustainable businesses and break the cycle of poverty.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Stabilizes finances and plans for immediate and long-term needs. Maximizes the impact of profits through coaching and links to services such as budgeting, savings and loans, and investment.

THROUGH THESE EFFORTS, YAMBA MALAWI IMPACTS THE LIVES OF OVER 100,000 CHILDREN EACH YEAR.

SPOTLIGHT ON

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This year, our partners at Bright Vision Community donated 20,000 trees from their volunteer-run nursery to Tiyambenawo Community's new orchard. Now, Tiyambenawo beekeepers are growing mango, papaya, and tangerines trees that will fortify the environment around their hives, all while providing healthy food options for community members in need.



WOMEN & CHILDREN

Studies show that women's empowerment and the wellbeing of children are inherently linked. That's why our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program is committed to at least 50% representation of female caregivers, and in 2018, we surpassed that—56% of all caregivers and 52% of leadership positions were women.



SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING

The sustainability of both our household- and community-level programs is key to the success of our mission. To work towards this goal, this past Fall, we convened partner Community Based Organizations for an interactive workshop that focused on strategic planning, leadership skills, and diversifying income generating activities.



MEET MATILDA

A MOTHER, FARMER, AND ROLE MODEL IN CHISEKA

Matilda lives with her two biological and two adopted children in a small mud hut with a thatch roof. Before this year, Matilda's only income came from growing and selling tomatoes at market. Frequently, erratic rains devastated her crops. She was left with no way to earn an income, and struggled to even provide her children meager meals of maize flour.

Since enrolling in the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, everything has changed for Matilda's family. To ensure the children's immediate needs were met, Yamba Malawi worked with Matilda to develop individualized plans that links her children to services like food, healthcare, and educational support. She not only increased her knowledge about best practices in childcare, but also learned new ways to generate income, how to manage and save profits, and most importantly, how to then use these profits to invest in her children's futures.

In June, Matilda's hard work paid off. After harvesting 535 lbs of soybeans and 465 lbs of groundnuts, Matilda sold her crops, opened a savings account, and is now providing her children with food, school supplies, soap, and uniforms. In recognition of her dedication, Matilda was elected to be a peer leader in the Program, and now serves as a mentor specializing in care for orphans and vulnerable children. "I learned so much," Matilda describes, "and now I want my children to work hard, so they can lead their community like me!"



MEET TIYAMBENAWO

WOMEN PROVIDING COMMUNITY-FOCUSED CARE

In the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, the children living in rural Chiseka were faced with immense challenges. Maria, a local leader, describes, “Because of HIV/AIDS, there were many children whose parents passed away. They went to live with their aunts and uncles, until they passed away as well. The children were all alone. They became street children.” Children were left vulnerable, and the situation was urgent.

Maria decided to take action. “I didn’t want this happening in my community,” she explained. Joined by other female leaders, she started a Community Based Organization named Tiyambenawo—which means “Let us begin again together” in the local Chichewa language. The community’s response was immediate. “At the time of founding,” Maria describes, “We could not even keep track of how many orphans there were to help. They were coming from other villages, looking for food, looking for help. We didn’t have an office, so we met under a tree. We would do manual work, so we could raise money to feed the children.”

Now, Tiyambenawo Community Based Organization has joined Yamba Malawi’s Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, and is our first project that includes both community- and household-level interventions. With increased coaching around reducing childhood vulnerability and with income earned from their beekeeping project, Tiyambenawo’s strong female leaders are welcoming more children into early childhood programs, feeding programs, and after school care. With the passion and dedication of these fearless women, Tiyambenawo is now becoming a model for children’s care, environmentally-friendly development, and community empowerment.

To see the women of Tiyambenawo in action, visit vimeo.com/yambamalawi/food.



MEET HAROLD

THE ONGOING IMPACT OF FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Harold is the eldest son of Lufina, a single-mother of five who is a beekeeper in the Chiseka Beekeeping Project. Harold's father abandoned the family, leaving them without any support. Already struggling, the family faced numerous challenges—from insufficient food to a leaky roof that frequently caused the children to fall ill. Lufina worked hard to care for Harold and his siblings, but she lacked the resources she needed to lift her family out of poverty. As the eldest, Harold found himself taking on responsibilities like tending crops, caring for his siblings, and finding side jobs that would help them make ends meet.

Two years ago, Harold, his mother, and his siblings are enrolled in the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program—and the impact on their lives has grown ever since. In their first year, Harold's family received the immediate support they needed to care for the household's growing children, and Lufina began attending coaching sessions on childhood wellbeing, financial literacy, and technical beekeeping skills. She started her own honey business, and used her income that pays for school fees, food, and more.

Now in their second year of the Program, Harold and his family have truly been empowered to change their future. Harold graduated from secondary school and is now the first in his family to enroll in university, where he wants to become an accountant. His youngest brother, Yoweri, has received critical health services to repair his cleft palate, and Lufina has invested in home improvements that are now providing a safe, dry living environment for the entire family. No longer struggling to get by, Harold and his family can now set their sights on dreaming big dreams, and building brighter futures.

To learn more about Harold's story, visit vimeo.com/yambamalawi/Harold.

SPOTLIGHT ON

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH



STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM

This year, Yamba Malawi's Program Team welcomed additional child-focused, monitoring and evaluation, and agribusiness experts. With increased staff capacity and expertise, our team is now well-equipped to work closely with vulnerable communities as we build brighter futures for children.



INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP & PROGRAM DESIGN

Borrowing from human centered design processes and utilizing the expertise of Board Member Whynde Keuhn, our team led targeted efforts to practice inclusive leadership, to more deeply incorporate community voices in program design, and strengthen feedback loops across all levels of our work. These efforts culminated with a number of internal and external activities, including staff workshops, targeted interviews, and community focus groups.



MONITORING & EVALUATION

To track our progress in real time, address challenges, and celebrate successes, Yamba Malawi invested in an ongoing, customized monitoring and evaluation system that will help us collect data and improve our program, so we can become even more efficient and impactful.

FINANCIALS

We are committed to ensuring each dollar donated is best utilized to better children's lives, and to sharing our progress with the utmost transparency and accountability.



**84% OF EACH DOLLAR RAISED
WENT DIRECTLY TO OUR
PROGRAMS IN MALAWI.**

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE | \$1,549,235 |
| PROGRAM EXPENSES | \$1,296,652 |
| MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES | \$111,918 |
| FUNDRAISING EXPENSES | \$126,685 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$1,535,255 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$847,518 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$43,187 |
| NET ASSET BALANCE | \$804,331 |

Accredited by the Better Business Bureau and Guidestar



OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Anikenstein • Bethanie Brady • Soraya Darabi
Abby Doft • Donald Felix • Jeremy Kaplan • Whynde Kuehn
Melissa Kushner • Mark Lakin • Meryl Levin • Eddie Mullon
Stephen Murray • Jason Segal

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Timothy Kachule • Esnath Kalyati • Ralph Sauti-Hahn

FOUNDER

Melissa Kushner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Peter Twyman



ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI



A warm Malawian thank you to all those who helped us build new beginnings for children, and lasting change for their communities.

From running ultramarathons to being a monthly supporter, from celebrating success with us at Gala for Good to visiting our work in Malawi, we are so grateful for the diverse ways our supporters choose to get involved. None of our work would be possible without the generosity of people like you.

I was born in Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, so it brings such gratitude in my heart to see what this organization is doing on the ground. Direct impact to communities through sustainable businesses has been at the core of Yamba Malawi's success, and their commitment to building a world where children get the care they need. As we say in Malawi, zikomo kwambiri—thank you very much!

PATRICK KANDAWIRE



We were so grateful to be this year's Gala for Good Honorees and to be able to share more about Yamba Malawi's inspiring work with our friends and family. We are proud to support Yamba Malawi because their holistic approach to breaking the cycle of poverty instills hope for brighter futures, builds community and changes lives.

BILLY FARRELL & BETHANIE BRADY

We know the positive ripple effect a job can have on a community, and that's why we are proud to support Yamba Malawi as they use sustainable business as a key component of their mission to reach more children and build stronger communities.

REBECCA STRAW
THE ADVENTURE PROJECT



To learn more, visit yambamalawi.org
or email us at info@yambamalawi.org

NEW YORK

45 Main Street, Suite 518
Brooklyn, NY 11201
USA

MALAWI

Plot number 101,
Area 6, P.O. Box 3284
Lilongwe, Malawi

Special thanks to our photographers,
Billy Farrell of BFA, Cameron Mulleaneaux,
and Jonathan Wallen.

