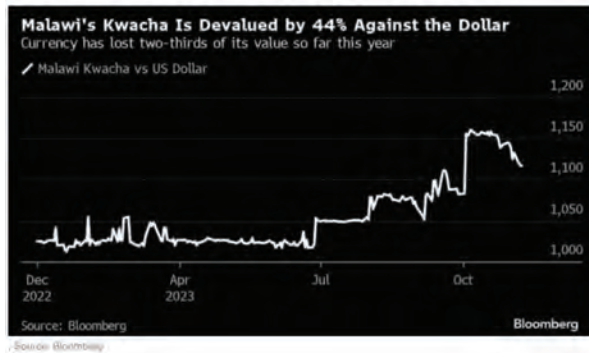


Changing Economic Reality in Malawi

Today February 3, 2024 the currency exchange is MK1685 equals \$1 US.

On February 3, 2021, just 3 years ago, the currency exchange was MK775 to \$1 US. The Malawian Kwacha continues to devalue at a staggering rate. One wonders how the average person is surviving.



Nursery School Teacher Marion Ngwira browses some of the new library books. More library news on page 4.

School fees have risen dramatically since COVID, and the charity finds it hard to budget with unpredictable changing costs.

Beneficiary Complement - Fall of 2023 – 163 girls:

20 girls in CHW Nursery School

– no fees

37 girls in Elementary

– no fees

87 girls in Secondary

– Fees for 1st term MK16,930,000 (MK 1000 to \$1 US was the exchange used at the time). That means \$16,930 US with a US exchange of .38 = \$23,363 CDN. This averages to \$268 CDN per secondary student per term x 3 terms is \$804 CDN a year.

19 young women in Colleges and Universities

– Fees 1st term MK13, 231, 000. Using same calculations: \$18,264 CDN. \$961 CDN per girl per term x 3 terms is \$2,883 CDN per year.

In 2019 - using exchange as MK775 - \$1 US

65 girls in Secondary – average per term \$107 CDN.

25 young women in Tertiary – average per term \$723 CDN.

Clearly, costs have risen significantly in the past 3 years.

Secondary – from \$107 per term to \$268 per term!

Tertiary – from \$723 per term to \$961 per term!

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In Need of Help

School leadership and the Mother Groups can no longer afford to have a noon meal which is an incentive for children to attend school, and for some, it may be the only meal they have for the day. Some children have failed to attend school. Change Her World has been asked to help.

On a Zoom call February 3 with the Chilumba Project Committee, Change Her World was asked to send money for food beginning with the elementary students as we did for the 35 vulnerable women a short time ago.

Your assistance would help to address this urgent need. We must be able to feed our girls.

One 50kg bag of maize is K39,000 – \$34 US



Vulnerable Women

As noted on CHW Facebook, the charity sent funds for maize for these women who generally are frail, live alone and struggle to feed themselves and survive. They are also in need of mattresses and mosquito nets especially and for 35 women this is a considerable amount but we hope to do it slowly throughout our 9 zones.

Using MK1500 to \$1 US going forward...

Mattress – \$33 CDN

Mosquito net – \$7 CDN

Blanket – \$33 CDN

Maize 50 kg – \$32 CDN



Special Note

Do We Have Your Email Address?

If you have not given us your email address or it has changed, please notify:

Lorraine Stevenson at
lorrainestevenson129@gmail.com

There may be occasions when the Board wishes to reach out to you before the time of the next Progress Report.

Thank You



50 More Women Empowered

The training of 50 women in pig husbandry and corral construction was completed in early 2024.

The Women's Inter Council of Canada again supported this initiative. In total, 250 women have been set up with either goats or pigs to establish economic stability and to improve the standard of living for their families. Distribution of the pigs has not yet happened as there was a possibility of a pig disease in the area. When it is safe to do so, the first 25 women will receive 2 pigs. Once litters are born, these women will pass on 2 pigs to the next 25 trained women. Thank you to other groups who have supported these vital projects.



Summer Shipment

We anticipate sending another shipment in early summer. We currently have 135 re-usable sanitary protection kits to go and will endeavour to complete more birthing kits. This activity halted during COVID and we are trying to gear up again and source supplies. The dried soup mix will be sent but little else given the high cost of shipping.

As we have 135 re-useable sanitary protection kits ready, it is our hope that additional underwear, dried soup for the Nursery School, 5 re-furbished computers for the library and a number of birthing kits can be included in this shipment.

If we can gather an additional 1,099 pairs of underwear, we will reach 20,000 pairs of girls/women's underwear that have been delivered to the Chilumba area over these past 14 years!

Amazing! Thank you!!!



Celebrating 10,000 in 2014.

Library Visitors

As the word spreads about the presence of the Change Her World Chilumba Community Library, the number of visitors increases. Our “phased in” plan was to have just the pre-schoolers and Standards 1-3 children come to the library but the older children as well as secondary students are coming. This is great news!!

Now however, we are scrambling to increase the number of textbooks and related curriculum materials and to purchase sufficient shelving to put them all on – a good problem to have! We will need more chairs and other furnishings as we move forward.

The student currently training to be the librarian, Asimenye, will spend her summer in the library organizing the space. She also has a teaching certificate which will bode well for future children’s programming. The books are now all digitally catalogued and as more books are purchased, these too will be added.



Above, the Manager of Port Authority in Chilumba where CHW office used to be located visits the new library.



Meet Gift Mwafulira – Office Administrator in Chilumba

Gift is a former CHW beneficiary and has a Diploma in Community Development. She is now our person in the office. We met her on a Zoom call on February 3. Welcome Gift!

Joyce Mkandawire has retired from office duties due to health concerns. We wish Joyce all the best. She has been with CHW from its inception and will continue as a member of the committee as health permits.



Gift in 2012 as a CHW beneficiary.

CHANGE HER WORLD

Annual Dinner

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Best Western Arden Park
552 Ontario Street, Stratford

5:30 Social Hour

6:30 Dinner

Tickets \$65 available at Blowes or Online at www.changeherworld.ca using the Donate button
(Indicate the number of tickets you are purchasing in the Comment Section)

• • •

Door Prizes! Silent Auction!
**Come hear about Linda and Carol's August 2023 trip
to Malawi and learn all the latest news!**

• • •

We are 1,099 pairs of underwear short of 20,000!

Donations for Change Her World Are Greatly Appreciated!

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I wish to contribute to Change Her World with a donation of \$ _____

I wish to make a monthly credit card donation (details below) of \$ _____

Please find enclosed payment by CASH CHEQUE (Made Payable to Change Her World)

VISA MASTERCARD

CARD NO. _____ EXPIRY DATE ____ / ____

Cardholder Name (Print) _____ SECURITY CODE _____

CHANGE HER WORLD
P.O. Box 1057
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W4

Receipts are issued for gifts of \$20.00 or more.

Donations may be made online at
www.changeherworld.ca

Change Her World has a TD Waterhouse Account. We are now able to receive donations of stock, bonds and securities.
Please contact Linda Willis at lwillis@changeherworld.ca for more information.

Charitable Registration No. 81600 9252 RR0001

CHANGE HER WORLD

Founded in 2010, this organization is dedicated to removing the barriers that prevent girls and women from being educated in the developing world.

Currently, girls and women in our project in Northern Malawi are receiving support but the need is great.

Our Corporate Objects include:

- ◆ Education of girls
- ◆ Relief of poverty
- ◆ Clean water and sanitation
- ◆ Promotion of Health
- ◆ Income Generating Activities

If you want to change the world... start with her

From the Board of Directors

As we look to what lies ahead for Change Her World, the Board of Directors feels compelled to express its sincere gratitude for the support it continues to receive. The CHW Chilumba Community Library opening was a momentous event and the culmination of years of planning. It has been enthusiastically received. We strive to keep up with the need for more books and to expand the services it can provide to all people in the community... a legacy of literacy!

What lies ahead? COVID is seemingly the basis of much transition on every level of our society and even globally. Next year will bring CHW to 15 years of prioritizing girls' education, health and the empowerment of women. We are excited to see what lies ahead!



We wish to thank
B & V Enterprises Stratford
for the charity discount
provided for the quality printing
of this report.

Change Her World

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