

# Tools and Training for Livelihood in Malawi 2013–2018

BOOK 5



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A project run by The Global Concerns Trust and funded by The Scottish Government





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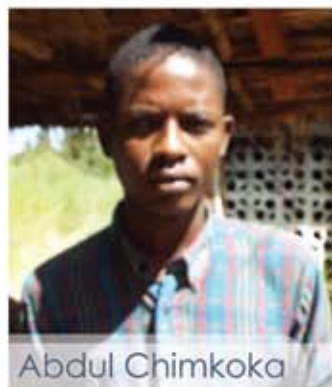
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The Global Concerns Trust is a Scottish based charity that aims to reduce poverty and empower vulnerable people through partnering organisations that implement sustainable grassroots development projects.

We currently support projects in India, Kenya and Malawi.

We have worked with partners in Malawi since 2007 providing vocational training, tools and sewing machines for adults with disabilities, supporting them to start up small businesses, so that they can have an income and support themselves and their families.

By 2018 we will have helped 335 adults with disabilities living

in rural areas of Malawi to become tailors, carpenters and cane furniture makers. Our projects in Malawi are funded by The Scottish Government.

This booklet details The Global Concerns Trust's current projects in Malawi 2017 – 2018, describing the training that is happening, the work in Scotland and Malawi that make it possible and the impact of the training so far on graduate trainees.

We have produced a film about this project, which can be viewed on our website [www.globalconcernstrust.org.uk](http://www.globalconcernstrust.org.uk)

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Fyness Masanga



## **THE PROJECT**

Malawi is known as 'The warm heart of Africa' due to its citizen's good-natured reputation. Malawi is a beautiful country with a rich culture and heritage. It is also very poor, with 50% of Malawi's 15 million citizens living below the poverty line. Poverty is especially high in rural areas, where there is minimal infrastructure or access to services. It is estimated that of the world's poorest people, that is those who lack access to basic necessities such as food, clean water, clothing and shelter, 1 in 5 is a person with disabilities.

They are more likely to live in poverty due to multiple barriers to accessing education, health care and employment. In addition, people with disabilities experience further challenges such as lack of disability aids and medical treatment, stigma and prejudice, higher chances of being subjected to violence, isolation and disempowerment. Women and girls with disabilities live with double discrimination due to existing gender inequalities. For many disabled people, supporting themselves and their families through the cultivation of crops, which most do, is extremely difficult. Many are completely dependent on their extended families or are forced to beg to survive.



## **This project aims to reduce poverty in Malawi by empowering some of these most vulnerable people, equipping them with the skills and tools needed to be self sufficient and earn a living.**

Tools and sewing machines are donated in Scotland and Northern Ireland and are refurbished by volunteers at the Scottish Tools for Self Reliance workshops in Edinburgh, Milltown and Aberdeen, The Ecology Centre and the Tools for Solidarity workshops in Northern Ireland.

They are then shipped to Malawi and are used by our partners MACOHA and KODO, to provide vocational training in carpentry, tailoring and cane furniture making.

Our trainees receive 6 – 12 months vocational training, business training, AIDS prevention, reproductive health and gender awareness training. When they have completed training they receive the tools and machines they need to start businesses. Between 2015 and 2018 all trainees will also undergo organic manure training and be given a solar panel.

Trainees receive on-going support and are visited at home 3 times in the year after completing their training. They are also invited to attend skill sharing workshops twice a year, where common challenges and successes can be shared with their fellow graduates. Through this continued contact with trainees, we are able to measure the long-term impact of training upon their lives, as well as assisting them with the early stages of setting up in business.





# MACOHA

Our two partners in Malawi are **MACOHA (The Malawi Council for the Handicapped)** and **KODO**.

Cane furniture trainees, Ntcheu



**MACOHA (Malawi Council for the Handicapped)** is a national organisation established by the Government of Malawi, to implement policies and strategies on disability. MACOHA are at the forefront of work to help men and women with disabilities to be more independent, self-sufficient, and recognised as equals within Malawian society. Their work includes supporting mainstream teachers to effectively

include children with disabilities, providing access to cataract operations, orthopaedic clinics, ear health services and HIV/AIDS awareness training, and supporting and offering training to mothers of children with disabilities.

We started our partnership with them in 2007 by equipping their vocational training centres in Lilongwe and Blantyre, with much needed tools and sewing machines.



We then piloted with MACOHA the implementation of a vocational training program for adults with disabilities in rural Dowa district finding local craftsmen to train people in carpentry and tailoring. Trainees welcomed the opportunity to train locally and not to have to travel too far from home to access training.

Trainees are attached in groups of 4 or 5 to a local carpenter, tailor or cane furniture maker and train with them as apprentices for 6 – 12 months. They are able to learn how to run all aspects of an active business as well as the necessary technical skills.

In 2013 we expanded the project to rural Nkhotakota district and in 2015 to Ntcheu district. MACOHA will have trained through this project a total of 155 adults with disabilities within 3 rural districts by 2018.

Graduates come back together to attend skill sharing workshops, where they share their experiences and challenges and give each other support and advice. The workshops are designed to support graduates to continue to work on product and skill development and marketing strategies that will help them to grow their businesses.



**Skill sharing workshop, Nkhotakota 2018**



# Joseph Kapalasa

Joseph lives in the hills just north of Ntcheu. He is 36 yrs old and is married with 3 children. Joseph has leg length discrepancy resulting in him having difficulties walking. He used to be a farmer making an income of just 2000mk (£2.20) a month and was dependent on his extended family to be able to survive. Joseph trained as a carpenter for a year in Ntcheu, graduating in 2016. He received his start up carpentry kit, some materials and a solar panel when he finished, and he has now been running his business from his workshop outside his house for 2 years. Business is going well and Joseph is busy making and selling doors, windows, chairs, coffee tables and stools.

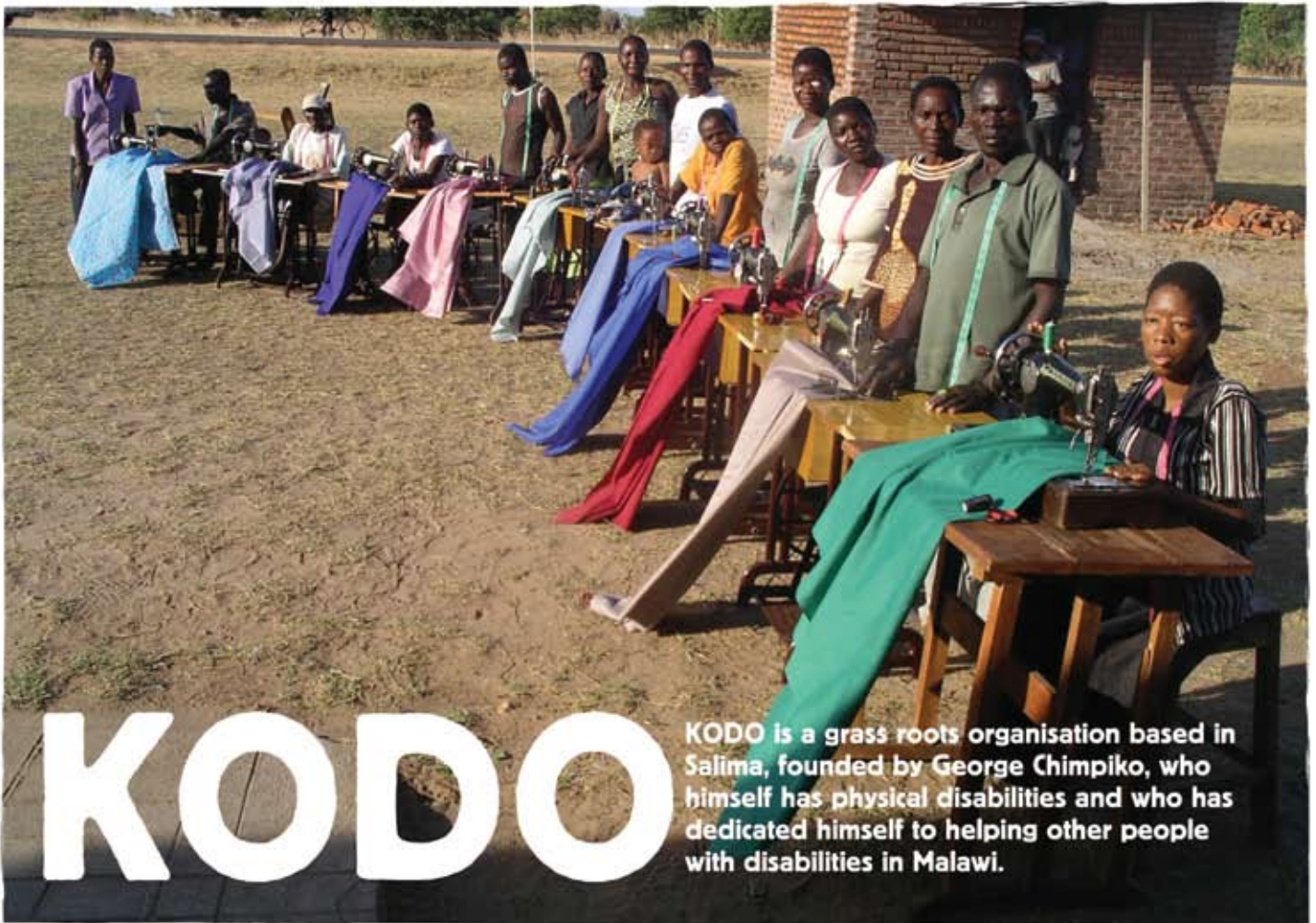


He is making 40000mk (£44) per month from his carpentry - an increase of income of 820%. Joseph is now able to meet all day to day needs for himself and his family and has been able to buy 4000 bricks to build a new house.



**Waisanga Chakutanda** took part in the tailoring training in Nkhotakota in 2013. Sadly Waisanga passed away this year. She was a talented tailor who managed to start a thriving little business, designing and making beautiful clothes. She was able to make enough money from her business to build a better house for her family. Waisanga made the shirts modelled by the Garvald volunteers on page 13. Waisanga will be greatly missed.





# KODO

KODO is a grass roots organisation based in Salima, founded by George Chimpiko, who himself has physical disabilities and who has dedicated himself to helping other people with disabilities in Malawi.

**KODO provides 6 month training courses in tailoring and cane furniture making to adults with disabilities in Salima district.** They have trained and supported 180 adults with disabilities to start-up businesses through this program, 55% of whom are women.

Trainees live together at KODO for the duration of their training and the sense of community and fellowship that develops between the trainees is palpable. For many of them, this will be the first time that they will have had the opportunity to leave their homes and meet other people with disabilities. The importance of these friendships, together with an increased sense of confidence and self worth that comes from the training, cannot be underestimated.

All trainees also learn how to make organic manure, a skill they will pass on to their communities once they get home. This will help the fertility of the soil, reduce soil erosion, and increase agricultural yields, as well as saving people the cost of having to buy chemical fertilizer. KODO also work with other partners to provide mobility aids and sustainable agriculture training to people with disabilities.







Organic manure production

As well as the vocational training and tools, all graduates are also given solar powered home energy systems. Graduates use this technology to provide light for their families, increase their business output and generate further income by providing mobile phone charging services.



Cane furniture graduates



KODO graduates with their solar panels



Some of our trainees were given treatment and prosthetic aids by 500 Miles, another Scottish organisation working to help people with disabilities in Malawi.



**KODO's new training hall and accommodation and the graduates that received treatment and prosthetics**

This year KODO were able to build a much needed accommodation hostel for trainees, funded by Ecosolidar, a Swiss charity. Trainees now sleep in comfortable self-contained rooms for 2. They have also built a large multi-purpose hall for training, have a medicinal garden and grow rice, soya, cassava and peas.



# Dorothy Kabambiezy

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Dorothy lives in a small village near Salima. She is married and has 1 child, although she supports and looks after 3 nieces and nephews since her sister passed away. Both Dorothy's legs are paralysed due to a childhood illness. Dorothy used to have a pre-training income of just 5000mk (£6) per month from making and selling donuts. She took part in the tailoring training at KODO, graduating in March 2016. Dorothy now runs her tailoring business from her home, selling school uniforms for the local school. She has an income of 60000mk per month (£67), which is an increase in income of 1220%. As well as her Singer sewing machine and some start up materials, Dorothy was also given a solar powered home energy system, providing light for her and her family. The children are now able to read after dark and no longer need to use the polluting kerosene lamps. She also has a secondary income of 5000mk per month from charging mobile phones with the solar panel. With her increased income Dorothy has been able to buy a goat, kitchen ware, food, farm inputs - she is growing maize, groundnuts and soya beans - and a mobile phone. She is saving money with a village savings scheme and hopes to be able to buy iron sheets for her house next year. She is also planning on topping up her skills with a tailor in Salima, so that she will be able to make and sell suits.





# TOOL WORKSHOPS

**The number of workshops involved with this project is expanding and we now have tools and sewing machines being donated and refurbished at 8 workshops across Scotland and Northern Ireland.**



The tools and sewing machines are refurbished by groups of adults with learning difficulties, mental health difficulties, people with dementia, retired people and international volunteers.

The quality of the tools and Singer sewing machines donated make them worth shipping across the world, as they are durable and can be repaired. They are also recycled. Without the input of the workshops in Scotland and Northern Ireland, we would be forced to buy tools and machines in Malawi, which are cheaply made, break easily and cannot be repaired.

This project promotes skill development in Scotland and Malawi, engaging volunteers in international development, including people with learning and mental health difficulties across the UK. There are many skills involved in refurbishing the tools and machines, and the work can be adapted to suit any technical ability.

The volunteers enjoy the social nature of the tools groups and find it really rewarding to be helping individuals so directly in Malawi. In addition, this project contributes to a reduction of waste in the UK in terms of the recycled tools and sewing machines.

To date, 335 adults with disabilities in Malawi have undergone training and received start up tools. The impact upon graduate trainees has been truly immense, with 97% having succeeded in setting up new businesses. We have recorded an average increase in income for trainees of 344% and an increase in trainees' families' income of 233%.

In real terms this translates to a substantial improvement of living standards for trainees and their families; being able to afford better food, basic household goods, livestock, medicine, labour, agricultural tools, seeds, land rental, labour and even better housing. Graduate trainees have shown that their businesses are expanding, with 56% employing workers, many able to invest in secondary businesses for the family and 80% saving money in village savings groups.

As significant as the increase of income to graduates, is the increase in their confidence, independence and ability to plan for the future.







Quality in Life

Garvald Edinburgh is a Scottish Charity offering creative opportunities and support for people with learning disabilities. They are inspired by the ideas of the educator and philosopher, Rudolf Steiner and have been operating in Edinburgh since 1969.



**Win Hatton, Warren Canham, Elizabeth Halliday, Makolm Lindsay and Joseph Gibney modelling shirts made by one of our Malawian graduates, Waisanga Chakutanda.**



**Michelle Cowe, Chris Fairly, Dhaoud Hussain, Makolm Lindsay, Doug Briglmen, Calum Finnigan and Stewart Keith**



# MILLTOWN COMMUNITY



Milltown Day Workshop, South Aberdeenshire, was set up in 1996 to provide practical work activities for local people with a range of disabilities. Restoring tools has been one of our most popular activities in our Day Workshop for nearly 20 years. The work is done by people who have some disabilities, but more importantly are enthusiastic and like to have a good laugh!



**Michelle Parkinson, Mark Steven, Tony Greene, Eric Davidson Ben Payne, Brian Gifford, Stuart Saunders**





**Jim Stevenson, Pat Convery, Robert Smith and Fred Varney**



## **THE ECOLOGY CENTRE, FIFE**

The Ecology Centre is a charity that brings people and nature together. They offer environmental education, volunteering opportunities and also create and manage habitats for wildlife.



**Bill Ashcroft**





# Tools For Solidarity

There had been a tools group operating in Belfast since 1984. Tools For Solidarity arose from this group in 1992 and has been running a volunteer managed workshop since then. We have a team of international and local volunteers some of whom are people with disabilities/learning difficulties.



**Jessica, Iuliia, John, Angeline, Yacine, Francesca, Stephen, Laura, Nico, Jim, Alberto, Peter and Desi**



**Al, Emanuel, Sam, Stephen, John, Chris (holding Benje) and Caroline**

The Downpatrick workshop opened its doors to volunteers in January 2004 in a workshop cold enough to ensure the volunteers stuck around - they stuck to all those freezing metal tools. The Downpatrick workshop is open to all and particularly welcomes people with mental health issues. The workshop is open 4 days a week and there are currently about 30 volunteers who drop in each week. We are delighted to work together with all the tools groups in Scotland to support the GCT.



## THE MOURNE GRANGE CAMPHILL COMMUNITY

The Mourne Grange Camphill Community in Killeel runs a small workshop focusing on cane furniture making and carpentry kits.



Connor O'Hare, James Ferguson, Geoff Claxton and Donal McKay



## BEANNACHAR CAMPHILL COMMUNITY

Camphill Beannachar offers residential care and day work placements for young adults with learning disabilities.

Besides a strong land-based work programme with a farm, walled garden and 27 acre estate, Beannachar runs a variety of craft workshops and is delighted to host, since the summer of 2015, a part-time "Tools For Self-Reliance" tools workshop. Although currently a part-time workshop, it is very popular with the students and strongly supported over the past 10 years by the Ellon Rotary Club. We will be looking to run it full time in the future.







# IMPACT

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Alice Miyaba



Monica Harrison



Mariam Chiyawa



Mary lam



Godfrey Moloko



Matiasus Sikelo



Madalitso Macemba



Lusako Moira



Luness Vessium



Louis Samson



John Saikolo



Herbert Mjima



Hawa Golos



Linde Chiko



Hamaida Phiri



Mthawa Chikembwe



Thandizo



Simon Kamika



Spencer Gleng'enthe



William Divason



Sara Banus



Samson Mustaf



Rhoda Phiri





This project is funded by the Scottish Government as part of the Scotland Malawi Partnership Agreement.

**We would like to thank them, together with our partners KODO, MACOHA, The Scottish Tools for Self Reliance Workshops, The Ecology Centre and Tools for Solidarity for making this project possible.**



The Global Concerns Trust is a registered charity in Scotland: SC025640

[www.globalconcernstrust.org.uk](http://www.globalconcernstrust.org.uk)