

# Tools and Training for Livelihood in Malawi 2013–2018

BOOK 4



Aness Joseph

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



Yankho Banda



Willard Hanjahanja



Kondwani Nyirenda



Samuel Mayilosi



Ndengwani Kaloja



Peter Nkhoma



Wyson Nkhoma



Noria Nkhata



Mandaliso Mdiritso



Mathews Leonard



Stella Magolowondo



Victoria Banda



Ntenga Nkhoma



Mtendere Phiri



Richard Kamzati



Umali Mndalawezi



Sitituma Philipo



Thomas Nkhata



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

We currently support projects in India 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. We have also worked to start up carpentry and tailoring clubs in primary schools. Our projects in Malawi are funded by The Scottish Government.

This booklet details The Global Concerns Trust's current projects in Malawi 2016 – 2017, 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)

Registered Charity: SC025640

Basket chair training, KODO



## 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 one of the poorest countries on earth, 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. For people with disabilities living in rural areas, these challenges are magnified with limited access to education, employment or disability

aids. 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.

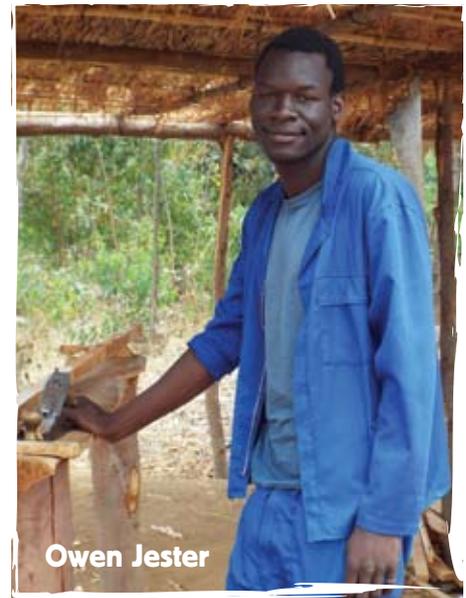
**This project aims to reduce poverty in Malawi by empowering some of these most vulnerable people, equipping them with the skills and tools needed to be self sufficient and earn a living.**

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 Dundee and Angus College in Fife, 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.



**Robert Mitchell**



**Owen Jester**

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 business.



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

KODO is a grass roots organisation based in Salima, that was 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 will have trained 150 adults with disabilities between 2013 and 2018, 60% of whom are women, and supported them to start up businesses.





**Skill sharing workshop, KODO**

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.





Stanford and Dixon are neighbours living outside Salima. They trained together in cane furniture making at KODO, graduating in March 2016. Stanford has a deformed leg, and Dixon has a paralysed hand. Between them they have 14 children. They used to make mats to sell, and relied upon their older children to help them produce enough food to eat. Since graduating they have set up a business together selling bamboo and wooden furniture, and window and door frames, and whilst they have only been trading for 6 months, their income has more than doubled. They now have enough money to feed their large families and have been able to buy chickens and farming tools. They are also saving money with a village savings group. Stanford has also been able to expand the size of his house to give his 8 children a little more room. They are excited about growing their business training others, and employing helpers.





Left to right: carpentry trainees Mavuto Banda, Lameck Mwale, Francis (trainer), Ntenga Nkhoma, Mightwell Pendwe

**Our other partner in Malawi is MACOHA (Malawi Council for the Handicapped). MACOHA 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.**

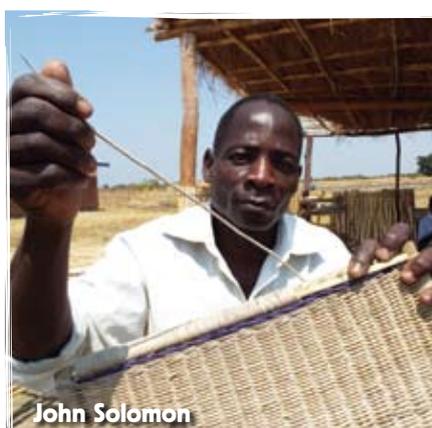
We started our partnership with them in 2007 by equipping their vocational training centres in the cities, Lilongwe and Blantyre, with much needed tools and sewing machines.

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.



Cane furniture making is a new trade in these districts and is proving to create profitable and successful businesses for graduates.

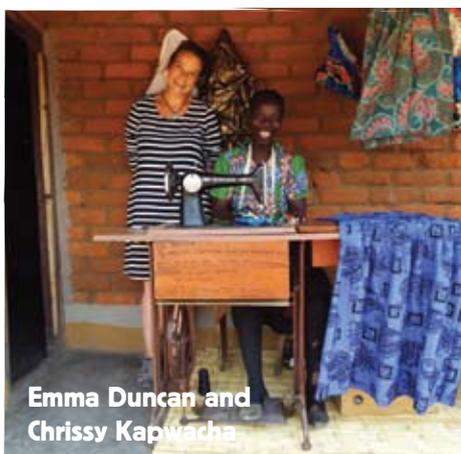
As of 2016 trainees in all districts will not only receive vocational training and tools, but will also be given a solar powered home energy system. Graduates will be able to use this technology to provide light for their families, increase their business output, and generate further income by providing mobile phone charging services.

**Chrissy Kapwacha was trained as a tailor in Nhkotakota in 2014. She is a single mother of 5, and an amputee. Chrissy used to rely on help from others to be able to feed herself and her children.**

She now runs a busy tailoring business from home, is financially independent and able to support her family and herself. She has also been able to buy 2 goats, rent a small plot of land, and pay a labourer to farm it. She is saving money and has plans to buy iron sheeting for her house.

Malinesi was one of the first women to take part in the new

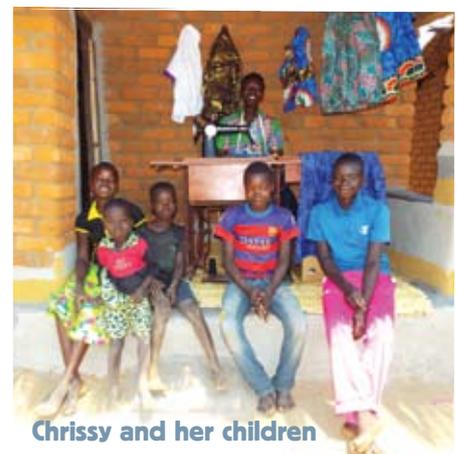
training programme in Ntcheu district. She is a mother of two and has a spinal condition which substantially affects her mobility. Previously Malinesi had no income and was completely reliant on her extended family. Now her new tailoring business is doing well and she is enjoying experimenting with designs. As well as the sewing machine and start up materials, Malinesi also received a solar panel, which allows her to work after dark, and to have a small income charging mobile phones. She has produced organic manure, and become a 'lead farmer', passing on the skill to others in her community.



**Emma Duncan and Chrissy Kapwacha**



**Chrissy Kapwacha**



**Chrissy and her children**



**Malinesi Mateyu**



**Malinesi next to her organic manure pit**



**Malinesi with Emma Duncan**

# 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 issues, retired people, including a group in a retirement home, and college students. The quality of the tools and singer sewing machines that are donated make them worth shipping across the world, as they are durable and can be repaired.

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.

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.



**Left to right: Joseph Gibney, Stewart Keith, John Newey, Robert Mitchell, Jay Mercer, Brian Borthwick, Warren, Brian Baird**



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.



**Top left: Laura Davis, Paul Grieve, Riach Harrington, Alice Forder, Warren Canham, Bottom left: Paul Graham, Colin Stewart, Neil Young, Graham Bain**

# MILLTOWN COMMUNITY



Jamie Bradford, Brian Gifford

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!



Robbie Cryle, Phillip Ditchfield, Michelle Parkinson

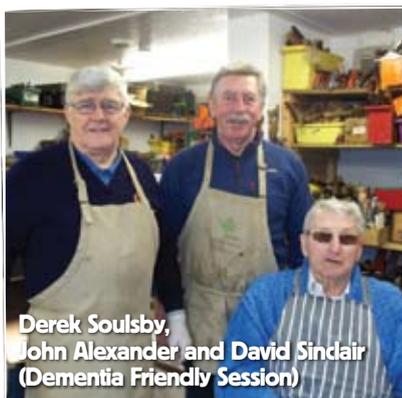


Left to right: Valerie Coutts, Eric Davidson, Ben Payne, Tony Greene, Mark Stephen, Stuart Saunders



## 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.



Derek Soulsby, John Alexander and David Sinclair (Dementia Friendly Session)



Left to right: Matthew Cain, Jim Martin, Bill Mitchell, Dave Smith, Ian Ross and Bill Ashcroft



Front: Jim Stevenson, Pat Convery  
Back: Robert Smith, Fred Vamey



## 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.



Steven McDonald, Sarah Johnston, Tilmann Reinardy, Grant Powrie, Ophelia Luelsdorf, Keith Lochhead and Ross Milne



Tilmann Reinardy, Matthieu Duthie, Alonso Fuente, Jackie Mullen and Chloe Pirie



## DUNDEE AND ANGUS COLLEGE

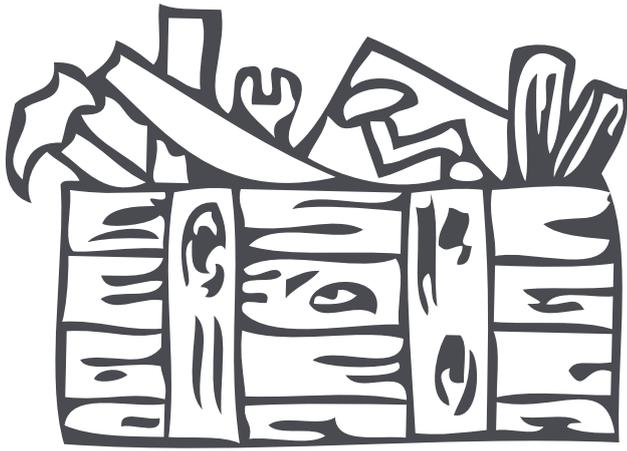


Jodie Middleton, Charles Watson, Shane Lee, Bryce Glen, Stephen Brown, Corrie Lilburn, Brian Christie, Brian Wilson.



Rear left, Shane lee, Corrie Lilburn, Brian Christie. Front Left, Jodie Middleton, Bryce Glen, Damian Wlodarczyk, Charles Watson, Stefan Brown, Bryan Wilson, Matthew Brown.

Students from 'Supported Education of Dundee and Angus College are on their final year of a 3 year life - skills programme. One element of the course is to refurbish tools as part of the voluntary work required for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. The students feel proud to be able to help others in a different country.



# 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.



John, Gabriella, Bogi, Emma, Sophia, Stephen, Larry, Laura, Micheal, Elena, Suzanne, Juan and Jim.



Chris, Paul, Stephen, Trevor, Alan



Hugh, John, Chris, Trevor, John and Sam.



James Ferguson, Conor O'Hare, Geoff Claxton and John Newman

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. Our workshop is open to all and particularly welcome 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.

**IMPACT:** To date, 263 adults with disabilities in Malawi have undergone training and received start up tools.

The impact upon graduate trainees has been truly immense, with 99% having succeeded in setting up new businesses. We have recorded an average increase in income for trainees of 500%, and an increase in trainees' families' income of 590%.

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, agricultural tools, seeds, land rental, labour and even better housing. Graduate trainees have shown that their businesses are expanding, with 28% employing workers, many able to invest in secondary businesses for the family, and all 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.



Alice Macheмба



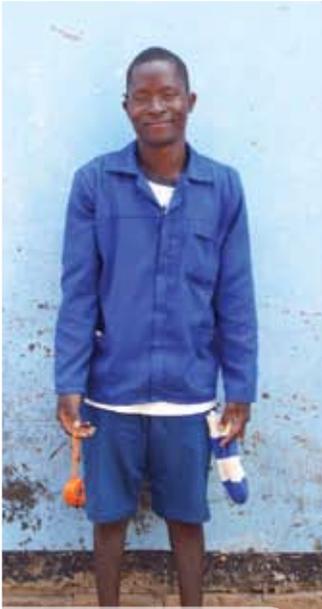
Gertrude Yosofat



Geoffrey Moffat



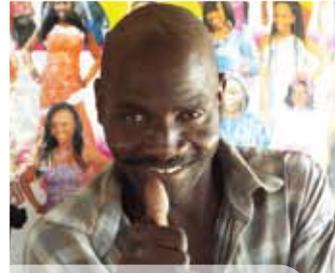
Catherine Phiri



Mavuto Banda



Gilbert Chamejiri



Brighton Chibwe



Dorothy Mezani



Brighton Jamu



Annie Nkhoma



Fyness Masanga



Kefi Kawilinga



Funseni Manyowa



Krispin Msakambewa



Chikondi Chingondo



Lameck Mwale



Mightwell Pendwe



Ethel Mphungo



Dorothy Kamambe



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 , Tools for Solidarity and Dundee and Angus College, 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)