



## **Annual Report 2023**

Our foundation has a partnership with the  
**Window of Hope Foundation**  
in Mangochi, Malawi

Utrecht, July 2024

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## 1. Introduction

2023 was a year of cyclone Freddy, droughts and floods, due mostly to climate changes. Its effects were damaged buildings, loss of crops and resulting famine in Malawi. Much is still needed to support the development of this very poor country. What we can do as Quality Center is not more than a drop in the ocean. Nevertheless, we are proud of the projects that our partner, the Window of Hope Foundation, did implement with our support.

In 2023 a number of ongoing projects were (partly) completed. The construction of the Early Childhood Development Center (ECD) in Ngalamo was nearing completion though with much delay as a result of the COVID pandemic, shortages and increased prices of building materials. The collaboration with the Window of Hope Foundation went well, although there were many challenges, for example to keep the communication going, due to the regular power failure in Mangochi.

A sad event was a burglary in Mary's house: she was beaten up and among the stolen items were her electronic devices, with all the reports, plans and financial records of the Window of Hope foundation.

You may read the development in this report.

The Dutch Malawi committee

Pim Brackenhoff

Jos van Dijk

Leida Schuringa

Liesbeth Redeke

The Board:

Chair: Bas Blauboer

Secretary: Liesbeth Redeke

Treasurer: Leida Schuringa



## 2. Cooperation of QC Malawi with the Window of Hope Foundation

### 2.1 The people

#### In the Netherlands

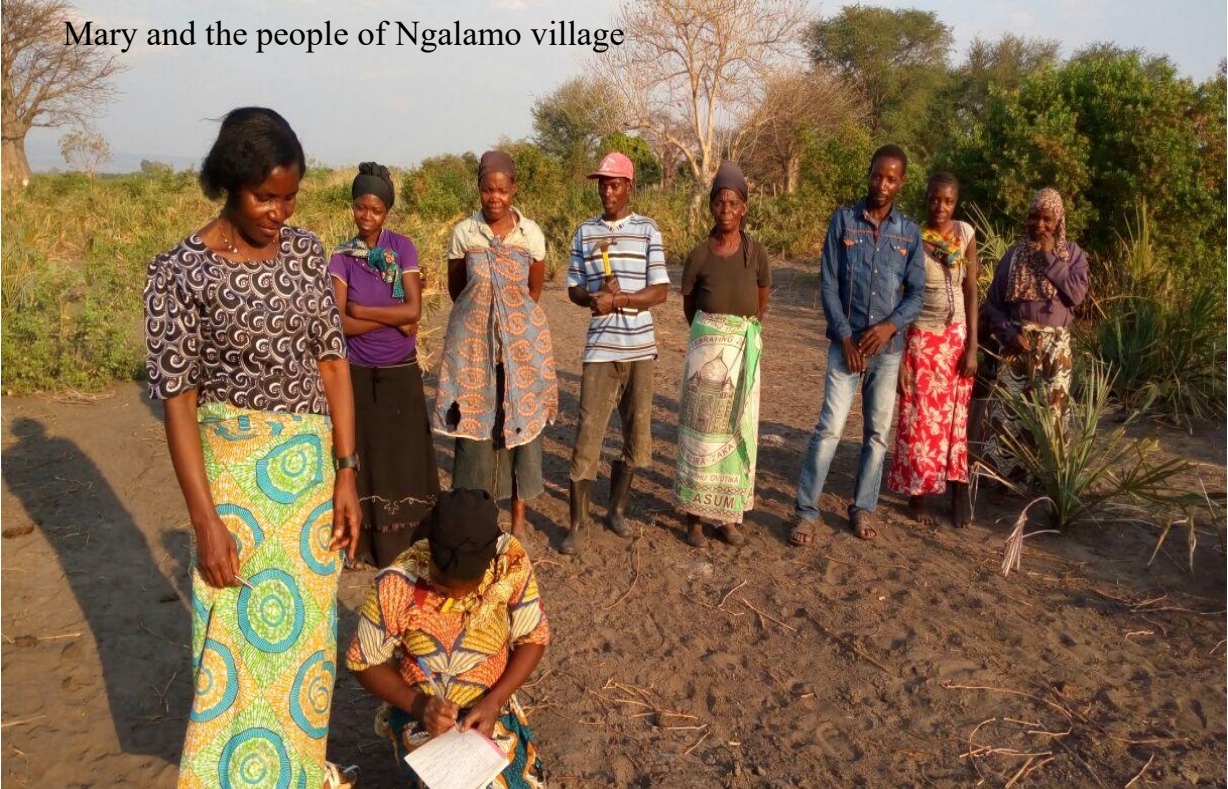
Four volunteers form the Malawi committee: Leida Schuringa, Pim Brackenhoff, Jos van Dijk and Liesbeth Redeke. They met 12 times in 2023, twice with a zoom contact with Mary and Emmanuel. The board met twice, in a combined meeting with the committee.

#### In Malawi

The board of the Window of Hope Foundation :

Sultan Chowe	Traditional Authority	Malawian	Board Chair
Winston Majamanda	Educationalist	Malawian	Vice Chair
Rehema Chuma	Accountant	Malawian	Financial Controller
Isaach Machinjiri	Social Worker	Malawian	Team Member
Rev. Sibande	Pastor	Malawian	Team Member
Rev. Mundisiye	Pastor	Malawian	Team Member

Mary Sibande is director and Elliot Kumwanje, her husband, is operations manager of the WoHF. We communicate mostly with Mary. By mail, WhatsApp or zoom, sometimes phone. Mary is truly the planning and driving force in the WoHF.



## 2.2 Communication with Mary en WoHF

Starting from a background as a nurse/midwife, Mary now is an expert in prevention and public health, with a passion for Community Empowerment. In 2015 she obtained her Masters in



Community Health and Development from the Great Lakes University of Kisumu in Kenya.

Mary regularly sends us project-proposals and reports on the ongoing or finished projects.

These days we mostly communicate via WhatsApp. Mary sends us interim reports and pictures.

There are still regular periods without electricity or internet.

A major setback this year has been the loss of laptops and USB sticks with documents (project plans and reports) and backups after a burglary in Mary's

home, where she also suffered a physical attack and took a long time to recover.

Mary's son Emmanuel, who is an administrative specialist from Lilongwe university, feels connected with the WoHF and after coordinating the Global Goals project in 2020 he supports Mary and coordinates the kids school project.

## 2.3 Our mission

We believe in the strength and capacity of each individual. Applying the method of Community Empowerment (CE) we aim to support people and communities to develop, reach their full potential and improve their quality of life. Giving support where people need a little boost.

***The goal is resilience. As the expression goes, give someone a fish and he will eat for one day. Teach him to fish and he will feed a generation.***

The activities of the Quality Centre largely consist of finding funds to finance projects in the Mangochi district. The projects are proposed by the Window of Hope Foundation. The intention is that the projects can ultimately continue without external financing and that enough money is earned locally to carry out projects that fall under the objectives of the WoHF.

The QC workgroup gives solicited and unsolicited advice and sometimes proposes (suggestions for) solutions. She also provides support in drawing up project- and business- plans.

Furthermore QC intends to promote and implement the principles of Community Empowerment in Malawi in cooperation with Mary Sibande and the local authorities.

### 3. Ongoing projects

#### 3.1 Early Childhood Development Centres: Ngalamo

The ECD in Ngalamo, near Mangochi, is the latest addition to the 5 childcare centres supported by the WoHF. More than 100 children will use this new centre; as a result, they will be better prepared for primary school. The villagers provided land and labour. The school, which will be next to the agricultural site, will also provide housing for a guard/worker on the land. At the end of 2019, in collaboration with Wilde Ganzen, the funds for this Ngalamo project were transferred. Construction started in January 2020; the building came to a complete standstill due to corona; when construction workers could resume work progress was halted by the rising costs and unavailability of materials.



Thanks to extra funding supported by Wilde Ganzen, construction was completed in January.



In February 2023 Malawi was hit by cyclone Freddy, which caused damage and severe flooding. The ECD lies on a slightly higher level than the surroundings. The house for the guard/caretaker collapsed and Ngalamo village was flooded.

In April Wilde Ganzen's Anke Makaske and her colleague visited Mary and the Ngalamo project.



### 3.2 Extra aid after cyclone Freddy

Storm and floods have destroyed crops and kitchen and toilet buildings at the ECD's in Chitowa and Ngalamo. Thanks to WG and the Dominicus church in Amsterdam we have been able to send extra money to Malawi for

the restoration of the buildings and to supply Chitowa with seeds.



In July we received a thank- you mail with some pictures of crops of the reconstruction project in Chitowa



### 3.3 The kids school project/ adoption plan

Quality Centre and the Window of Hope work together to improve the quality of lives of people as stated in the Global Goals for sustainable development.



An important way to get out of poverty is education.

The Window of Hope Foundation's initial mission was to place maternal death orphans in a foster family and support that family to ensure an education (for all the children.)

The mission has extended since it started. This is how Mary defines it in 2020:

*WoHF is a charitable organization in the development of vulnerable populations in poor resourced countries like Malawi.*

*It exists to be a leading organization in providing applicable support to maternal death orphans in the district and wide. Motivating parents and children to invest in education from a tender age Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD), promoting social-economic and community empowerment.*

The orphans are growing up and funding their education cannot always be guaranteed by WoHF. In 2020 we started a new project: we found people in the Netherlands who “adopted” children on Mary’s list. There were 20, we found sponsors for 15 of them. By 2023 the list has grown to 31 as more people hear of the program and come in asking for support. The age ranges from primary school to university. Until recently Mary and Elliot kept the records of the school progress. The intention is that Mary’s son Emmanuel will assist her by visiting the various pupils. Linda Posawatha, one of the sponsored students who graduated in 2021 from Livingstonia University with a bachelor degree in journalism may also give her support. We inform the sponsors about the progress of “their” children. We are still looking for more people to adopt or sponsor a student.

### 4 New projects

In general the Window of Hope Foundation proposes projects after consultation with local communities and chiefs. Priorities are decided through the method of community empowerment (as described in the book by Leida and Mary). Mary writes a project plan with a budget.



## **4.1 Safe water and sanitation**

Inspired by a competition started by Wilde Ganzen Mary wrote a project plan which was approved by Wilde Ganzen in May 2023.

*“Most of the communities in Mangochi lack access to clean and safe water and this is the case with Ngalamo and Chitowa communities where we have constructed ECD centres. Community members had already asked for construction of boreholes at these two ECDs for the children accessing ECD services and for the surrounding communities of these two ECDs. Poor sanitation and hygiene are major contributors to poor health and diseases like cholera.”*

The plan contains the installation of boreholes at Chitowa and Ngalamo, building toilets for children, caregivers and visitors at Chitowa and Ngalamo. Also the training of a community based water/sanitation management committee.

The whole process is to be evaluated and documented and published to be used as an example in other similar situations.

With the delays in completing Ngalamo this project has been put on hold.

## **4.2 A correspondence project**

After the successful global Goals project in 2022 (high school students in Lilongwe composed a newspaper on Global Goals together with students from a school in Utrecht) a plan was drawn up to organize a correspondence project between students in Mangochi and Utrecht. The thought behind it is that it is useful and interesting for young people to exchange ideas and hear about each other's circumstances.

In Mangochi Emmanuel has tried to find a school that wanted to participate and we found the Werkplaats/Kees Boeke school in Bilthoven supporting the idea. Use of social media in Malawi is a challenge, most people have cell phones but not always access to internet, and schools don't allow phones in the classrooms.

## **5 Miscellaneous**

### **5.1 Publicity**

We have a website ([www.qcnetwerk.nl](http://www.qcnetwerk.nl)) where we report on progress of the projects.

Twice a year we mail a newsletter to about a 100 interested people.

We also keep track of actual news about Malawi in various international publications. We mail a summary with links to articles to interested people and the WoHF in Mangochi.

We have flyers and ballpoints to hand out whenever we have an activity.

We have approached our various networks in the search for adopting/sponsor “parents”.

## 5.2 Partners

Quality Center is a member of Partin, an organisation that supports private initiatives in the field of international development.

Partin stimulates integration and coordination and develops tool kits to aid in the implementing Global Development Goals.

Wilde Ganzen (Wild Geese) has been a major supporter in our projects.



## 5.3 Board/finances

In 2023 this was the board of Quality Centre:

Chair Bas Blaauboer, Secretary Liesbeth Redeke, Treasurer Leida Schuringa

Contact address: Abraham Bloemaertstraat 14, 3514 VP Utrecht

Website: [www.gcnetwerk.nl](http://www.gcnetwerk.nl)

Website Window of Hope Foundation: [www.hopebusinesscentre-malawi.com](http://www.hopebusinesscentre-malawi.com)

Bank account : NL101INGB0004256879 of Stichting Quality Centre.

QC has ANBI status.

Quality Centre tries to finance projects Mary and WoHF propose. If a plan is accepted by Wilde Ganzen they are our main financier. They supplement the money we collect with 50%. We also approach the Dominicus Church in Amsterdam every 3 years for a collection.

General costs are for the bank accounts, money transfers, the accountant and the hosting of our website. They are paid from regular and irregular donations.

The people who sponsor a child/student do so through a 5 year contract which gives them a tax benefit. Our annual financial report is accorded by an accountant and published on our website.

## 6 Plans for 2024

### 6.1 Water and sanitation project

When the final reports on the Ngalamo project and the restoration project have been accorded by Wilde Ganzen we hope to start with finding funds for the water and sanitation project. (4.1)

### 6.2 The correspondence project (4.2)

We hope all communication difficulties will be solved and hope that students can start with the exchange of information.

### 6.3 Starting to use the ECD in Ngalamo for the children

Several families from Ngalamo have taken shelter in the ECD after their houses have been destroyed by the floods. We hope they will find ways to rebuild their houses or find a new place to live so that the ECD can be used as it is intended.