



ART&GLOBAL HEALTH CENTER
AFRICA

Harnessing the Transformative Power of the Arts

ANNUAL REPORT
2021

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ABOUT ARTGLO

WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT

ArtGlo programmes nurture healthy, empowered, open and active communities in Malawi. We believe in the transformative power of the arts to facilitate experiential learning, encourage cross-cultural understanding, foster empathy, and strengthen communities.

We work across four thematic areas: Gender Justice, Social Inclusion and Diversity (SID), Youth and Community Engagement (YCE) and Climate and Environmental Justice.

Mission

ArtGlo harnesses the power of the arts to nurture creative leadership and to ignite bold conversations and actions

Vision

We envision a world where communities are healthy, open, and active, and people are free to be who they are.

Partnerships and collaboration

We use partnerships and collaboration at multiple levels to advance our work, and to ensure that our creative approaches can add value to the strengths of other organisations

Human-Centered Design (HCD)

We use Human-Centred Design (HCD) approaches in our programming, and train grassroots organisations to use HCD in their work with communities.

Participatory Arts

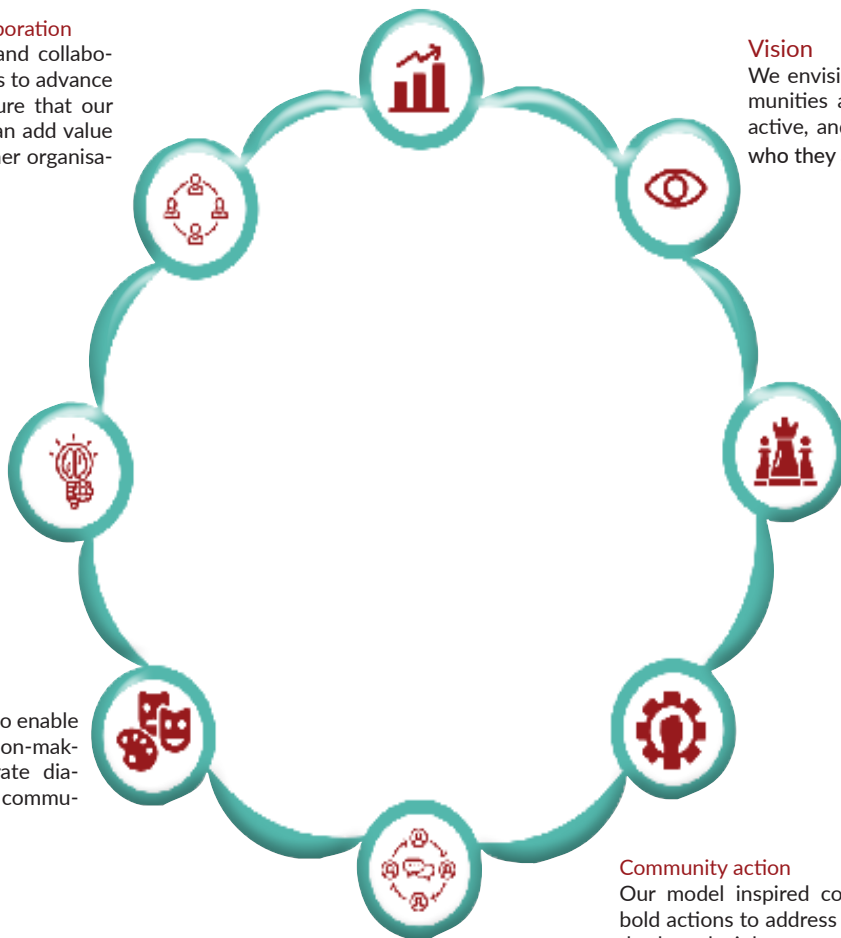
We use participatory arts to enable shared ownership of decision-making processes and generate dialogue, social activism, and community mobilization.

Community voices

ArtGlo continually invested in amplifying community voices, enabling them to be heard and to inform decisions at community, national and regional level. This included using participatory arts approaches to train and support community-based organisations and key populations including marginalised women, girls and young people, LGBTQI+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS channel their voice and tell their stories.

Community action

Our model inspired communities to take bold actions to address issues such as gender-based violence and inequality, public service delivery, discrimination and exclusion, lack of access to health services, as well as economic vulnerability. ArtGlo supported communities to co-create multi-stakeholder community action plans which were community-led, community-funded and leveraged on existing resources and knowledge.





2021 was another challenging year, but one where ArtGlo continued to grow and increase its impact, including in a number of new areas. Our use of participatory art and Human-Centered Design approaches were once more at the core of our programming focusing on human rights, Ending Gender-Based Violence, and Good Health and Well Being.

A huge highlight for us was seeing existing partnerships flourish, and developing new ones. In collaboration with Reprieve, we developed a series of radio plays and a panel discussion exploring the death penalty, which was broadcast on MBC Radio 1 with millions of listeners. With Neotree, a neonatal health app, we enabled mothers of young children to gather their own photo and video stories about experiences of childbirth and the health system, and share these with key stakeholders. With Feminist art collective WONA, we collaborated on a series of radio episodes, also broadcast as podcasts, enabling women to anonymously share stories of violence. Partnering with UNESCO, we implemented a creative youth-teacher dialogue event on experiences of Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

We were also part of several exciting online and offline events- from using arts to engage SADC Health Ministers at the launch of the regional SRHR scorecard, to an online workshop on Umunthu at the international Culture, Health and Wellbeing conference, and presenting findings of the 'Whose Crisis?' participatory arts research project at the African Research Universities Alliance. These events offered a fantastic chance to engage high level stakeholders and share our methodologies with a wide range of audiences in Malawi and globally.

Our ongoing projects made great strides. Our Make Art for Women's Activism (MAWA) project trained 20 new grassroots Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in two districts, as well as seeing the Chiradzulu CSOs we trained in 2020 conduct impactful initiatives in their communities. Our online cohort also completed their training and began to deliver activities. The Umunthu Healthcare Workers project engaged hundreds of community and religious leaders, as well as bringing together LGBTI people and healthcare workers. We wrapped up the MASA YFO project with vibrant showcase events in both Zomba and Lilongwe.

Covid-19 was once again a major challenge during the year, with three waves across the course of the year meaning we had to continually adapt our programming, pausing some key activities during times that cases were higher. We were proud of the adaptability of our staff team, who continued to find ways to engage our programme participants and partners even when face to face work wasn't possible. We were also pleased to collaborate with ECHO consortium partners to develop and deliver training in tackling myths and misinformation on Covid-19 and the vaccination process.

We were delighted to feature as a case study in United Nations Volunteers (UNV) state of the world's volunteerism report, in the 'VolunteerState Partnerships and Social innovation' chapter. You can download the report here <https://www.unv.org/swvr>.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our achievements and challenges during 2021, as well as inspiring stories from people we work with in this report.

Isabel Kumwembe, Board Chair,
Helen Todd, Executive Director

MAKE ART FOR WOMEN ACTIVISM

Our Make Art for Women Activism (MAWA) project aims to improve the lives of women and girls by challenging patriarchal social norms and mainstreaming women's empowerment through strengthening grassroots Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). We believe CSOs are more knowledgeable and well placed to advocate and mobilise for the change in their society, but most have limited capacity and skills to achieve the same. This is a 3 years Art-Glo project funded by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

MAWA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' IMPACT

In 2021, MAWA CSOs were able to ignite conversations and action about violence against women and girls (VAWG), civic educate their respective target communities and lobby for change. In most communities in which we work, cultures, traditions and beliefs that reinforce gender inequality drive the way of life. We have found that with the right training and support, CSOs are able to use Human-Centered Design approaches to research how issues of violence against women and girls are impacting their communities, and design projects to address these issues. Using arts is proving to be a powerful method to reflect on gender inequality issues and inspire open expression.

"We didn't know that it's okay for women to be economically independent and self-reliant. Being a part of CEWCODA's teen mothers group has opened my eyes to become more vigilant about my life and to express myself freely using art. I am now able to take care of myself physically and mentally. I no longer live in fear at home", Ruth Mlakata, a member of the teen mothers group from CEWCODA

COLLABORATION

Something that stood out in 2021 was the level of collaboration between MAWA CSOs and different community structures, as well as with each other. In order to make a significant impact in the fight for the elimination of VAWG, collaboration is key. Through group brainstorming sessions facilitated by ArtGlo, and supporting CSOs to develop networks, we have been seeing CSOs exchange ideas and support each other's development. We also had a number of CSOs working hand in hand with community youth clubs in their participatory arts activities.

"We are working with two youth clubs, Masanjala and Nakhule. Whenever we have gatherings where drama is needed, we involve either of the two youth clubs to help us out." Memory, Disability is not Inability.

In the same spirit of collaboration, we played a productive role in the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence campaign. We collaborated with WONA collective on a program called "To whoever is listening" in which we worked with women survivors of violence and created a platform for them to share their stories. We began with hosting a writer's workshop for the women. After the stories were written and developed, a different set of women read-out the stories to protect the identities of the women survivors. The stories were broadcast on Times and Timveni radio and a podcast of the stories was developed. We wanted to reach out to women facing the same experiences, while at the same time calling to action to stop gender based violence.

MAWA 2021 IN NUMBERS

Capacity Building

We have strengthened the capacity of CSOs in participatory art, Human-Centred Design, Communications, Technical Gender and SRHR, Monitoring and Evaluation and financial management



96
CSO leaders trained

Reach

4,334
People were reached through performances and advocacy activities



2,619
Women and girls



1,715
Men and boys

Impact

MAWA trained CSOs have responded, reported and addressed:

63
Child Marriage cases

88
Early and child pregnancy cases

27
Sexual violence cases

78
School-related violence cases

155
Physical abuse cases

166
Intimate partner violence cases

MARY'S JOURNEY TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



“I am the one who buys school materials for our children while he covers the school fees. My life is so much better now and am thankful to Chisombezi CBO for helping us through this process,” said Mary.

Mary is a 31-year-old married woman with three children. She has been married for more than 8 years and throughout those years, her husband never accepted the idea of her owning a business. Growing up in a community that stresses so much on the man as the breadwinner, the head of the house and the woman as someone to take care of the home, Mary had a tough time convincing her husband that her running a business would improve their livelihood as a family.

Chisombezi CBO, one of the Civil Society Organizations recruited under the project held an event within Mary's community in which they used pictures to educate the audience about Violence Against Women and Girls. One of the things that Chisombezi focused on was economic abuse in which they highlighted that prohibiting a woman from owning a business or to be involved in economic empowerment activities is a violation of her rights. Mary said that both her and her husband attended that particular event and when they got home, they had a discussion about what was being taught at the event. After their chat, they both agreed to approach Chisombezi CBO to learn in-depth about gender-based violence.

“After we had the sit down with Chisombezi, my husband changed, he gave me some money to set up a business and I also joined bank m'khonde where together with other women we save up money to help us when things are not going well financially.” She narrates.

Mary is a proud business owner and she says that the living standard of her family has completely changed, and she is so grateful that the project helped her and her husband become more aware about gender based violence.

“I really love being financially independent. I am able to buy basic needs for my family and support my husband with other expenditures. I am the one who buys school materials for our children while he covers the school fees. My life is so much better now and I am thankful to Chisombezi CBO for helping us through this process,” said a smiling Mary.

TESTIMONIALS

“I never thought I would get an opportunity to attend a training that will empower me with knowledge and skills in my efforts to end violence against women and girls living with disabilities. As a visually impaired woman, I was treated as an equal during the training and felt like I belonged with this group of leaders. My team and I have started using human centered design to conduct research and we are going to keep using the knowledge and skills we gained to make a difference in our community.”

Fatuma Saidi, Chairperson for Chinolampeni Disability CBO in Phalombe.

“As a community based organization, we operate at a group village (GVH) level. After we started implementing our activities on ending child marriage in the communities, our work has spread across neighbouring communities such that the Traditional Authority (T/A), has given us permission to go beyond community, from GVH level to T/A level. We have grown. We are now a role model CBO for upcoming small organizations in our area. We are so proud of our work.”

Isaac Kalima, Chisombezi CBO, Chiradzulu.



The Tiyambe project focuses on the provision of civic education on gender equality and sexual harassment in communities surrounding Eastern Produce Malawi's (EPM) estates in Mulanje and Thyolo districts. This is part of EPM's Women's Empowerment Initiative, a three-year programme to promote gender equality and prevent sexual harassment in the communities in which it is situated. Piloted in 2021, the project uses Theatre for Development to ignite conversations about gender equality and sexual harassment and to drive change within the communities surrounding these tea and macadamia estates.

In 2021, we held 8 performances in 8 different communities in Mulanje and Thyolo all responding to the various needs of the target communities. We started with recruiting community youth drama clubs who underwent training in Theater for Development and research. The training also included such topics as sexual harassment and gender equality to ensure that the drama club members are knowledgeable about what the project is doing. Applying the knowledge in research, the drama club members went into their respective communities to find out the most

common challenges to gender equality as well as the most common forms of violence. When all the information was gathered, story-lines were developed based on what they found-out and the rehearsals for the performances began.

The drama club members were taken through voice projection, audience participation, how to enter and exit the arena, miming, stage management and facilitation of Community Action Plans (CAP). At the end of the training, they were ready to deliver their performances. People within the communities were informed about the performances and the turnout was impressive. Across all performances in Mulanje, 1,111 community members attended while in Thyolo, 1,019 community members were present.

Using questions at different stages of the play, the drama club was able to engage the people. This ensures that solutions are suggested and designed by the community itself. Though it has been a few months since the project pilot, we have already started seeing the impacts of the project on the drama club members and the communities.

A DETERMINED TALANDILA GOES BACK TO SCHOOL



Talandila is an 18 year old girl whose life took a complete turn for the better after she attended one of our performances in Thyolo, Chilapa village. The performance addressed issues of early marriages and early pregnancies and the dangers associated with the two. The story revolved around a young woman who was sexually exploited and ended up in an early marriage. It showed the struggles this young woman faced and the trauma she went through. Talandila said this was her turning point.

“I was going out with different men because of what I was being given by them. My parents had chased me away because of this behavior and I was taken in by my grandmother. Seeing how the girl in the play suffered, I did not want that for myself. I went to my grandmother and I asked her if it was possible for me to go back to school.” she narrated.

The grandmother could not hide her joy at just how much her grand daughter’s behavior had changed.

“She came to me days after the performance and asked if she could go back to school. I was surprised but happy at the same time to hear her say that. Talandila was a difficult child. I thought that she was not going to commit to her decision but I can tell you that she goes to school and she helps me with

chores, something she never used to do because she was always out.” explained her grandmother.

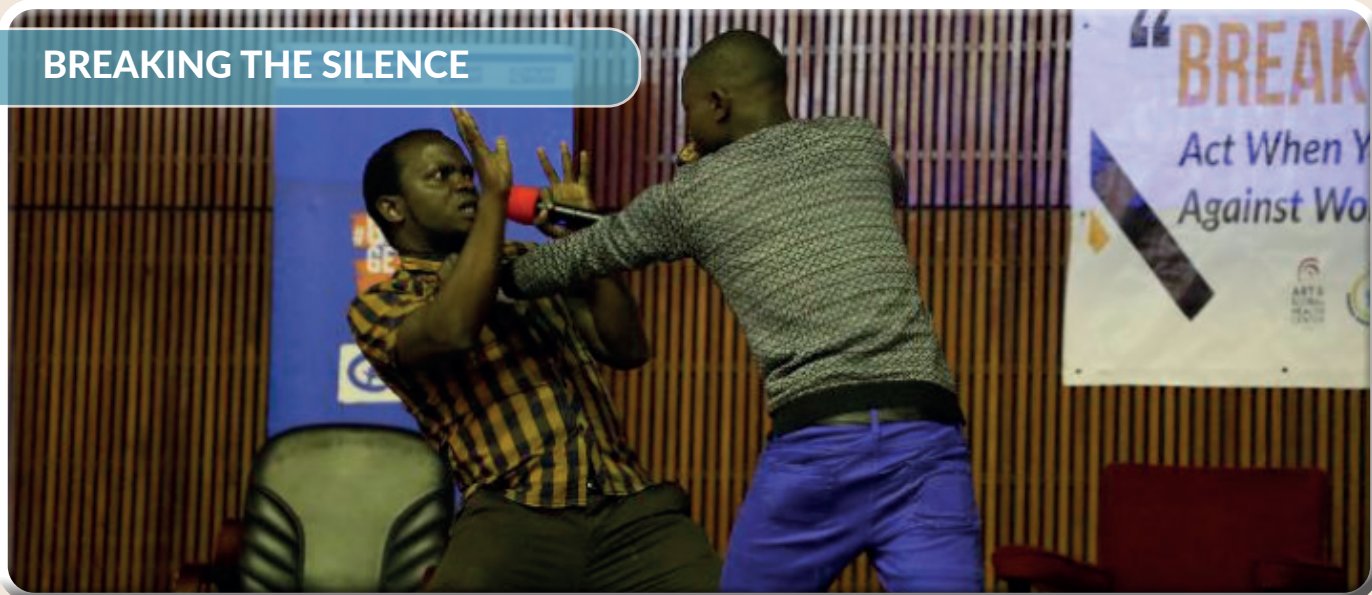
Talandila has not only gone back to school but she got selected as an ambassador for Afikepo, an organization which works to address different challenges faced by adolescent girls.

“In my work with Afikepo, I educate my fellow girls in the community on several life skills topics.” she added.

Participatory arts is such a powerful tool for social and behavioral change and Talandila’s story goes to show how much influence participatory arts has on communities.

“ I was going out with different men because of what I was being given by them. My parents had chased me away because of this behavior and I was taken in by my grandmother. Seeing how the girl in the play suffered, I did not want that for myself. I went to my grandmother and I asked her if it was possible for me to go back to school.” she narrated.

BREAKING THE SILENCE



The MASA squad was back in action at a High-Level Panel Discussion on “Breaking the Silence on violence against women and girls; and the presence of minors on campus” at the University of Malawi. The panel discussion was graced by Spouse to the Vice-President Mary Nkhamanyachi Chilima – Plan Malawi’s #FreeToBeOnline Ambassador. It focused on failure to recognize students below the age of 18 as minors by institutions of higher learning, acute sex for grades, sexual harassment, cases of rape and cyberbullying.

The MASA squad brought the issues to life with an invisible theatre performance about the impact of

cyber bullying, and a play showing the vulnerability of students who are minors to exploitation. The performances ignited vibrant conversations, and complemented the thought provoking speeches and panel discussion with Madame Chilima; Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development, Honorable Dr Patricia Kaliati; student representatives and faculty.

We were pleased to collaborate with organisers Chanco Gender Justice Clinic, Chanco Child Rights Clinic, and Plan International Malawi who supported the event.

LAUNCH OF THE SADC SRHR SCORECARD

One of the most exciting events we were a part of in 2021 was the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) health ministers meeting in November. The meeting was an official launch of the SADC sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) scorecard for the SADC region. The scorecard is a high-level peer review accountability tool to track progress of the region in achieving the SADC Regional Strategy for SRHR 2019-2030 and the SRHR targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We were invited by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to deliver a performance on Sexual and Reproductive Health Services. We engaged dignitaries through forum theater and brought to attention the challenges which rural youth meet in accessing Sexual Reproductive Health Services. SRHR is one of our priority areas and it was thrilling to be recognised by UNFPA and to showcase our method-

ology and approach in advocating for and raising awareness on issues of SRHR to such key and influential individuals.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) AND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

MASA YFO PROJECT

The Make Art for Sustainable Action Youth Focused Organizations Project (MASA YFO) aimed to empower youth-led organizations in the use of Human Centered Design and Participatory Arts to deliver effective and relevant adolescent sexual and reproductive health & rights (ASRHR) programming. The project closed with a bang in 2021 with two major events in Zomba and Lilongwe where the MASA YFOs showcased their work in ASRHR to crucial and key stakeholders. To know more about the amazing campaigns and work the YFOs did, check out our 2020 annual report here (<https://www.artgloafrica.org/>)



The showcase in Zomba, where all the YFOs are based, had two main sessions: the performances and the pavilion session. The YFOs put together various performances to showcase how they were using arts to engage their communities in issues of SRHR. The drama piece which they performed focused on unplanned pregnancies and how they can be avoided by the youth. The musical performances, poetry and lively traditional dance carried SRHR messages and told tales of the challenges the YFOs had been targeting through their projects. Responding to the COVID-19 situation and restrictions, we prerecorded some performances and showcased them as videos.

The pavilion session was an opportunity for the YFOs to present their materials and techniques in a more personalized and in-depth way. The guests such as the District Youth Officer, the Civil Society Organization Chair, the Youth Friendly Services District Coordinator, the District Health Officer and the Social Welfare Officer went round each YFO pavilion listening to what the organizations had been doing. The YFOs had a great time networking and building relationships with the guests.

"I must say I am impressed by the work you are do-

ing mostly because you are targeting the most critical population who are the youths, therefore, creating a better tomorrow. I hope as Youth Focused Organizations, you will not stop your interventions because the project has come to an end, I hope you will use the skills you have learnt to do more interventions in your communities," said the guest of honour, Dr. Alexander Chijuwa, the Zomba DHSS.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) AND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

“ArtGlo has done an amazing job especially in their approach. They didn't act like they know it all, instead they went to the communities to engage the people on their specific Sexual Reproductive Health challenges and how they can possibly solve them.”

Hon. Timothy Mtambo,
Minister of Civic
Education and National
Unity



The Lilongwe showcase marked the official end of the project. The event was graced by the Minister of Civic Education and National Unity as the guest of honor. The Lilongwe showcase was attended by decision & policy makers who could potentially become allies to the YFOs in their future events and projects. The YFOs music and dance performances showcased how they had been using traditional dances to advocate for Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights such as the use of contraceptives in their respective communities. The drama performance focused on showing the barriers to safe sex practices.

The event was a success and helped to remind policymakers, advocates and stakeholders, that it is very critical to design SRHR advocacy interventions and projects that target and include the youth. It also gave young people a platform to show decision makers their potential to influence and impact their communities.

“ArtGlo's MASA YFO project is a critical project that aims to transform harmful cultural practices that still persists in ASRHR. The event that was organised by ArtGlo to showcase the role of young people in ASRHR interventions, reminded policy makers, advocates and stakeholders, that it's not only critical

to design and include youth in ASRHR advocacy. If success is to be registered in tackling of ASRHR challenges, targeting the youth as a major stakeholder is key.” Habiba Osman, Executive Secretary of the Malawi Human Rights Commission.

“We were given time as a local organisation to share our story to other bigger organisations and influential people who have potential to help us in future projects. Often times, it is not easy to meet such people and share our story.” Blessings Mwenda, Chikonde Youth Organisation.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) AND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

CSE DIALOGUE EVENT WITH UNESCO

“ I enjoyed that we were given a chance to openly talk about sex and comprehensive sexual education with my peers.”

said a student
.....

“ I have acquired additional techniques and skills on how to teach CSE.”

said a teacher
.....

ArtGlo led an innovative dialogue event exploring Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Machinga district, in partnership with UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). The event gathered 85 students and 14 teachers to share perspectives on CSE, to inform UNESCO's O3 programme, which supports the delivery of high-quality CSE education in 33 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. We used participatory arts approaches including drama, drawing activities and songs to help create a safe and open space for discussion of taboo topics. Sessions were tailored to students and teachers, with some working separately with the two groups to encourage open expression, and some facilitating dialogue.

Feedback from the event was very positive, with 100% of teachers and 94.34% of students saying the sessions were relevant to them, and all participants reporting that dialogue with fellow students or teachers was encouraged.



NEOTREE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



Neotree is a project using digital technology to transform neonatal health in Malawi and Zimbabwe. While early results have been promising, field visits identified that social and cultural issues were affecting the acceptance of the project. ArtGlo were approached to develop a participatory arts response, which would strengthen understanding between researchers, parents/carers and health professionals, and allow co-design of future projects, improved health communication and public engagement.

In 2021 ArtGlo began building the capacity of 10 mothers to share their stories around health care, including digital health in order to support strengthening of health services in the country. These mothers received training using participatory arts methods to learn how they can skillfully use methods such as photography, drawing, photo voice, interactive film and videography. They used the skills learned to capture and share their stories and experiences that were showcased at an Exhibition at Kamuzu Central Hospital which involved key hospital personnel and members of local NGOs who work in the sector. In this exhibition, the mothers displayed and explained their journey when accessing antenatal, labor, delivery, neonatal services, community perception of

pregnancy, childbirth and policy issues affecting health services.

For the next phase of the project, we will get feedback on the issues raised by the mothers to feed into an engagement involving health care workers in order to address them and support health improvement. We are also looking forward to begin the work in Zimbabwe at Chinoyi.



HIGHLIGHTS OF CREATIVE STORY BRIEFS USED BY THE MOTHERS

BACKGROUND

In many communities in Malawi, the role and responsibility of caring for the expectant women and new-borns is not clearly understood among mothers, caregivers, community and health care givers. This affects the relationship among mothers, caregivers, the community and health care givers. The women used creative stories to explain about different issues surrounding pregnant women and new-borns among mothers, caregivers, community and health care givers. The stories included beliefs, perceptions, roles and responsibilities affecting the relationship among mothers, caregivers, the community and health care givers. Here are some examples!



Ellen used interactive video to share some mother's experiences surrounding digital health. Some mothers believe when they see a healthcare worker using a phone or tablet that he or she is being rude or chatting on WhatsApp. There is a need for healthcare workers to proactively explain to patients why they are using technology.



This picture was part of Thokozani Mpheta's story exhibit in which she shared different roles and responsibilities of various caregivers during childbirth and to the newborns. Thokozani explained about how she gets better Neonatal services at the hospital because her husband always escorts her. However, this ignited a debate on whether it is fair for the health care workers to be providing better Neonatal services to women who are escorted by their husbands than to who are not.

TRAINING JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES TO CHALLENGE MISINFORMATION AROUND COVID-19

“The approach is different. This was a nice approach. Through these, we can reach out to more people. At first, we mainly used speakers which made it impossible to reach out effectively to everyone. But this was a different and good approach and should happen often. It encourages interaction of community members.”

~ Representative, Ministry of Information.



In 2021, the COVID-19 situation was constantly evolving in Malawi. Uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine was slow due to a combination of supply and distribution challenges, and vaccine hesitancy largely fueled by myths and misinformation circulating in communities and on social media. A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey conducted by The College of Medicine, Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) and UNICEF in November 2020 showed that 87% of the participants had heard about COVID-19 from the radio. This highlighted the role of radio in communicating on COVID-19, particularly to remote rural communities, but many journalists lacked skills in responding to the misinformation circulating on COVID-19 and the vaccine.

ArtGlo was commissioned by United Purpose (UP) to design and deliver training for journalists and DHO representatives on effectively communicating about COVID-19 and the vaccination process, with a particular emphasis on tackling myths and misinformation. This was part of the ECHO funded consortium project "Support to at risk districts and communities in Malawi to prevent, rapidly detect and effectively respond to COVID-19".

ArtGlo developed the workshop curriculum from research on best practice approaches, drawing from resources from fact-checking sites, academic research, online news, multimedia and best-practice guidelines. It aimed to contextualise this information to the real situation on the ground regarding myths and misinformation, using participatory arts approaches

to give participants a chance to apply the learning to myths and misinformation circulating in their target areas.

In May 2021, ArtGlo trained journalists from Bembeke community radio, Zodiak Broadcasting Station and representatives of Dedza District Health Office. The Bembeke journalists, in collaboration with local government, cascaded the training to 13 community journalists. At a refresher training in October, we facilitated participants to talk through issues and challenges while also highlighting successes and mapping a way forward. We were pleased to find that the participants had been actively applying what they learned at the training. For example a sports commentator commented that he had been integrating Covid-19 information to his sports programming, and others shared how they had identified a village with higher vaccine rates, and worked with community members and the Traditional Authority himself to develop programming to motivate people in other villages to get the vaccine.

Following the success of the training, we were commissioned by UP to build the capacity of district and sub-district structures to think critically about information sources about COVID-19 and communicate effectively on COVID-19 and the vaccination process in their communities. ArtGlo adapted the materials that they had developed for the training of journalists and facilitated two training of trainers (ToT) with district government officials and Area Development Committee (ADC) members.

'WHOSE CRISIS' INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT



Although COVID-19 is a health issue, the crisis is far more than a health crisis. It is a social and cultural one that is currently poorly understood and minimally represented in the context of the Global South. The 'Whose Crisis' project was developed as a response to a rapidly evolving global pandemic whereby the North is leading — by example and economic pressure — a response to an emergency affecting communities all over the world. The project was a collaboration between members of the Sustainable Futures network in five African countries and the University of Glasgow, with ArtGlo a key partner in Malawi. It aimed to co-curate representations and develop understandings of the social and cultural crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and expose unseen and misunderstood aspects.

'Whose Crisis?' used arts-based research methods to explore community experiences and perceptions of Covid-19. In Malawi, the research focused on Shanganani, a village in Mchinji at the border with Zambia, and Mbando village in Machinga district. Community members shared about an increase in early pregnancy and child marriage due to prolonged school closures. Key community members had succumbed to the virus- for example one primary school teacher died due to Covid-19, and community members associated with him faced stigma and discrimination, rather than being supported in their loss. The economic impact was particularly intense in Shanganani, where many people rely on cross- border trade for their income. While the border was formally

closed for a long period, people were crossing illegally due to lack of alternative sources of income.

Data from the project, including video and photo footage, is featured on the project website <https://www.whosecrisis.org/>. A research article was published in the Journal of Open Humanities Data in their special collection of Humanities Data in the time of Covid-19. <https://openhumanitiesdata.metajnl.com/articles/10.5334/johd.52/>, and our Research and Operations Manager, Bosco Chinkonda presented on the project at the Biennial International Conference- Global Public Health Challenges: Facing Them In Afrca at the University of Pretoria. The project was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council- Global Challenges Research Fund (AHRCGRF).

“

The future is “doomed”. There are grave fears about the future of the youths and therefore the future of the community due to impacts of closure of schools as a result of the pandemic. There has been a huge increase in the number of pregnancies and early (child) marriages registered within the period of school closure. This shows that the impacts of the pandemic will remain with the community way beyond the pandemic.”

IDI Teacher, Shanganani.

.....

ZAMUMTIMA SIZAWEKHA

Zamumtima Sizawekha ('That which is in your heart does not have to be felt by you alone') is a mental health project under our Students With Dreams programme which puts young people at the center of developing innovative ideas to ignite conversations and address challenges to mental health in their communities. In 2021, the project worked with three teams of students from the University of Malawi: Za pa Ize Si Zapa Ize, Osaphweketsa Madando and Konkalas. Following a participatory arts and HCD training, the teams devised novel, digital mental health engagements, using WhatsApp as a delivery platform, both responding to its widespread use and its potential to facilitate ongoing engagement during heavy restrictions and disruption created by COVID-19.



DREAMERS' HIGHLIGHTS

OSAPHWEKETSA MADANDO

The Osaphweketsa Madando (roughly translated means "do not take mental health lightly") team took the novel approach of delivering invisible theater on a WhatsApp group. Through the group's research, they had found that a key issue impacting mental health is abusive relationships- which is often not recognized as abuse, particularly if it is emotional rather than physical. The team identified and joined a popular WhatsApp group for students at the college. Khumbo, one of the Osaphweketsa Madando dreamers shares more:

"After we joined the group, the act began with an argument between two people who were romantically involved. Then one of the actors brought out the issue of emotional abuse in their relationship. It was a short play after which we explained what we were doing and the issue addressed. We then made a call on the group for anyone interested to join our WhatsApp group where we can discuss issues of abuse in romantic relationships and how this affects mental well-being. We had students come

forward interested to learn more and discuss these issues and the WhatsApp group was created."



KONKALAS

Our dreamers known as Konkalas (literally translated means conquerors) were very specific in what they sought to address: depression. The team's goal is to reduce misconceptions and stigma around depression. Through their WhatsApp platform, Konkalas uses animated videos and poetry to share and speak about depression.

"We decided that every person in the group should take an active role to ensure good engagement. In addition to poetry and animated videos, we currently have some members working on short stories and others on producing music talking about depression."

Said Binuel of the Konkalas team.

"Our plan is to share the videos and the music which we will produce on social media so that we reach as many young people as possible.

Our focus is not only on the University of Malawi but even young people countrywide. We are passionate about mental health and even after this project, we will continue to raise awareness about depression." he added.

ZA PA IZE SI ZA PA IZE

The Za pa ize si za pa ize team understood the toll COVID-19 and the consequent restrictions might be taking on students. The team created a WhatsApp support group where people can share their thoughts and talk through mental health and the effects of the pandemic on students' mental well-being. They ran a poster campaign to promote the group.

"We had a number of students reachout to us to be part of the group. We had our first discussion where we laid out the context of mental health and what it entails. We had group members really engage with the discussion and we laid out distinctions between things as depression and sadness. Our end goal is to have students understand that mental health is a serious issue and they should be able to seek help."

Said Alinafe, Za pa ize si za pa ize dreamer.



UMUNTHU HEALTHCARE WORKERS PROJECT



Minority groups, and particularly the LGBTI community, have often been excluded from healthcare in Malawi. The Umunthu Healthcare Workers project tackles this through the application of participatory arts within a traditional Malawian cultural framework, allowing the reduction of stigma and discrimination and a fresh perspective on the rights of minority groups. Through this health seeking behaviors as well as inclusive health care are promoted.

The project so far has engaged healthcare workers through workshops with the aim of improving knowledge about the LGBTI community and achieving equitable administration of health care in health institutions. Our midline evaluation of the Umunthu Healthcare Workers project, and feedback from healthcare workers, informed us that even when Healthcare Workers are changing attitudes, social norms in communities still impact LGBTI people and their access to health. Therefore in 2021, we focused on engaging religious and traditional leaders; convergence workshops bringing together Healthcare Workers and LGBTI people; healthcare student workshops; and supporting Healthcare Worker Champions and LGBTI peer leaders.

We engaged religious and community leaders through workshops with the aim of cementing social inclusion of LGBTI people in different communities. Leaders generally have the ability to influence the attitudes and behaviors of those they lead and we leverage this to achieve this aim. Considering that the majority of these leaders have limited understanding of

the LGBTI community, we involve an LGBTI person in each workshop to share their story. This session is normally followed up with questions which the LGBTI person together with the facilitators help to clarify. Though some leaders are not always as accepting, we have had others who have taken action towards inclusivity of LGBTI people in their communities.

UMUNTHU IN NUMBERS



39

Workshops held

222

community and religious leaders reached



90

healthcare students reached

229

frontline healthcare workers and LGBTI people reached

UMUNTHU HEALTHCARE WORKERS PROJECT



A RELIGIOUS LEADER IN MCHINJI SHARED HIS STORY ABOUT HOW HIS PERCEPTION ABOUT THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY HAS CHANGED AND HOW HE WAS ABLE TO ASSIST SOMEONE WHO APPROACHED HIM AT HIS CHURCH. HE NARRATES:

"After attending the Umunthu workshop in Mchinji, I became very sensitive about how I prepare and deliver my sermons, especially on the hate and judgmental messages. I speak more about love, co-existence and forgiveness. The groups which I used to shame as being the worst sinners, I began telling my congregation that God would love it if we could reach out and accept them. We can only show them the love of God if we ourselves start showing that love."

"There was this young man I had not seen for quite some time. He came to church on a weekday wanting to see me. I invited him in and he shared with me his story in confidence. He said that he is gay, and his parents got to know about it. They had threatened to chase him away from their home and to stop paying his school fees. When he had approached me, they had already restricted his movements. He had been told to always stay at home until they figured out what to do with him. He came to me because he had contracted an STI and wanted me to pray for him.

At this point, I thanked God because of the Umunthu workshop which I attended because without that particular workshop, I would have sent him out of my

office based on my previous perceptions about LGBTI people. I took him through a counseling session about spirituality and living a healthy life, and then took him to the hospital myself. I was privileged to have met a clinician who was a part of the Umunthu health care's workshops and is a current Umunthu Champion. He was very welcoming and treated the young man well.

The health care worker suggested that we invite the parents to the hospital and have a discussion with them about their son. When they came, we enlightened them about sexual orientation and gender identity. This helped put things in perspective for them concerning their son and they were able to understand that their son is part of the LGBTI community. They took back their threats and welcomed him back!

“

After attending the Umunthu workshop in Mchinji, I became very sensitive about how I prepare and deliver my sermons, especially on the hate and judgmental messages. I speak more about love, co-existence and forgiveness. The groups which I used to shame as being the worst sinners, I began telling my congregation that God would love it if we could reach out and accept them. We can only show them the love of God if we ourselves start showing that love.”

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UMUNTHU HEALTHCARE WORKERS PROJECT

UMUNTHU CONVERGENCE WORKSHOPS

Initially, the Umunthu project held workshops for health care workers. However, during our follow-up visits, there was an overwhelming recommendation from health care workers to hold workshops together with LGBTI people. Most of the health care workers raised concerns on how the LGBTI people in their communities seemed to still have reservations about approaching them even though as health care workers they were ready and eager to assist them when they go to the hospital. We therefore introduced convergence workshops with the aim of bringing together health care workers and LGBTI people to discuss best practices that could make them free and comfortable to provide and access health services respectively. Through the use of the arts and participatory approaches, they came up with and agreed on action plans to be carried out by both parties. So far, there has been an excellent working relationship between healthcare workers and the LGBTI community.



TESTIMONIAL

“ I used to think that healthcare workers are proud people and I didn't even want to interact with them. I would be appalled by them each time I would meet them in the streets. The convergence workshop has helped me to work out my attitude towards the health care workers. I wasn't expecting that health-care workers would be interested to know and meet us like this. They emphasize to us that their attitude towards us has changed and that they will be able to provide us health services like everyone else. Now I am ready to work with them and start accessing health services whenever I need them.”

LGBTI person, Dedza-Mua.

“ Our previous medical curriculum instructed health care workers that being an LGBTI person is a mental condition and has to be treated as one. Our available instant treatment was CPZ (medication for mental illness) regardless of the presented medical condition. However, Umunthu workshop has positively affected my attitude towards the LGBTI community. Now I understand that being an LGBTI person is not a mental condition but rather how one was born and is not subject to change.”

Senior Medical Assistant, Dedza-Mua

ArtGlo and Reprieve present:

"Tionenso"

a radio drama to ignite conversation
on the death penalty

The fluctuating legal status of the death penalty in Malawi in 2021 made our ongoing collaboration with human rights NGO Reprieve particularly timely. In April, the death penalty was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. However, in August the court revised its original judgment due to a procedural technicality and therefore the possibility of a person being sentenced to death remains. This legal ping-pong made the death penalty a hot topic for discussion, but there was little information and communication about the real life impact of the death penalty on people convicted and their families.

In 2021, ArtGlo developed a series of radio plays weaving together narratives and experiences of people who have been resentenced after being on death row, their families, and other community members. This built on narratives from a series of workshops we conducted across the country in 2020, as well as Reprieve's experience supporting people who had been languishing in prison through the resentencing process, and testimonials from beneficiaries of that project.

The radio plays told the story of a tragic love feud, which led to a young man being wrongly convicted of murder. It showed the impact of police brutality, and the issue of access to justice and the barriers that economically disadvantaged people face in trying to get proper legal representation. Eleven episodes were aired on Malawi's leading radio station,

MBC1, concluding with a plenary discussion with a former death row inmate, a chief, a Reprieve fellow, and the Umunthu Programme Manager discussing how the plays relate to the situation on the ground regarding the death penalty. To get different perspectives and engagement on the radio plays, we set up a WhatsApp group of diverse individuals including pastors, doctors, lawyers and chiefs, and also posed questions through the radio programmes with listeners responding by SMS. We were pleased by the lively WhatsApp discussions, and the SMS response, with around 300 messages per episode. Some key issues brought up included the importance of punishment giving the opportunity for reform, religious arguments that the Bible does not condone killing, and the issue that the death penalty can conceal important evidence.

“

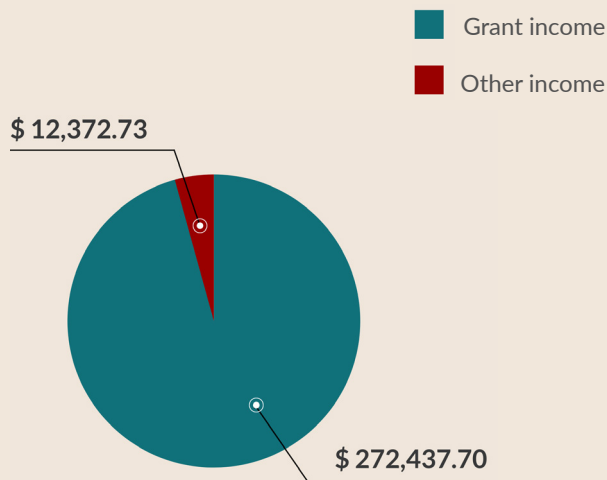
Is death penalty really a form of punishment? I hear punishment is meted to yield change. Now, is death penalty meant for vengeance or punishing? If the intention is to avenge the death of the murdered then let's embrace it but it should bear the name vengeance not punishment because punishment must aim at harvesting change.”

Listener, Tionenso radio dramas

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

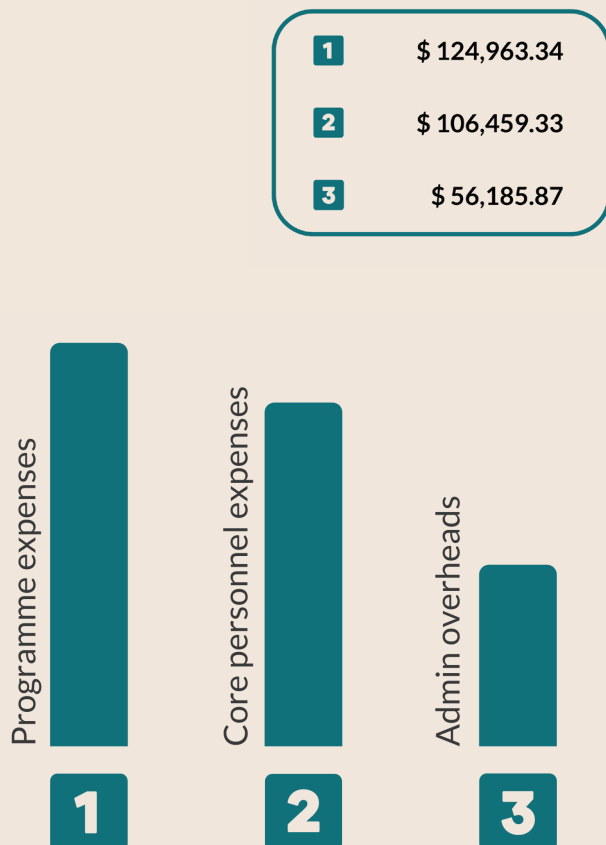
INCOME

Our total income for this year was \$ 284,810.43.
Here is our breakdown



EXPENDITURE

This is how your support made a difference in our programming and operations



SUMMARY

	DOLLARS	MWK
TOTAL INCOME	284,810.43	232,776,306
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	287,608.53	235,063,201
DEFICIT	2,798.10	2,286,895

your support and contributions made a difference in the communities we work with.

THANK YOU

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- » Mia Lei
- » Natalie Honoria Shokoohy
- » Dan Boneh
- » Galia Boneh
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- » Medical Humanities Network
- » Omprakash

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- » Youth-Focused Organisations
- » Civil Society Organisations
 - » Government of Malawi
 - » Global Health Corps
- » World University Service Canada
 - » WONA collective
 - » Plan International Malawi



In 2022, we look forward to further expanding our impact on our key thematic areas, and collaborations with complementary organizations. We're excited to enter the final stages of our Umunthu Healthcare Workers project- engaging more community and religious leaders, working with senior health officials in our target districts and other partners to develop strategies to sustain the gains of the project, and working with our external evaluators on a final project evaluation.

Make Art for Women's Activism also enters its final year- focusing on training CSOs in Blantyre district, supporting trained CSOs from other target districts to implement their projects on ending violence against women and girls, showcasing the CSO's achievements and learning at district and national levels. We will expand from our pilot work on the Tiyambe project, engaging communities from six new tea estates on tackling Gender-Based Violence and sexual harassment using Theatre for Development approaches.

Many of our collaborative projects will reach the next level- from the Neotree project with UCL expanding to work in Zimbabwe and concluding the Malawi initiatives, to concluding the Radio plays with Reprieve and working to engage policy makers on the death penalty, to expanding our training on tackling Covid-19 misinformation and myths to three new districts in collaboration with United Purpose and with support from UNICEF. Look out for an exciting collaborative film project with the Malawi Medical Humanities

network, University of Edinburgh and University of Pretoria, as well as a collaboration with UNAIDS on their 2gether4SRHR project.

We welcome conversations on new partnerships where our participatory arts and HCD approaches can synergise with other organization's expertise if you are interested to explore partnerships please get in touch!

SUPPORT US

Your support is what makes it possible to transform the communities we work with. To support us you can;



Donate through our website
<https://www.artgloafrica.org/donate>



Explore some exciting volunteering opportunities here
<https://www.artgloafrica.org/opportunities>

TO THE ARTGLO TEAM

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic you still managed to dedicate your time, energy and resources. It is because of your commitment that we managed to make strides in 2021.

THANK YOU!!



OUR STAFF

- » **Helen Todd**, Executive Director
- » **Bosco Chinkonda**, Research and Operations Manager
- » **Sharon Kalima Nkhwazi**, MASA Programme Manager
- » **Rodger Kumalire Phiri**, Umunthu Programme Manager
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