

# Newsletter

Amplifying community voices and action

October 2022 - March 2023

## MAWA Project Praised at National Event

*"I am impressed to learn that all the CSOs that participated in the project within these 3 years have grown so much in many ways....."*

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## Tiyambe Tfd Transcends power dynamics

*"We really participated in the play as it also gave us a platform to press our community leaders and the police...."*

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## Breaking social barriers to Human rights and freedoms of

*"I wish I was exposed to this information when I was still at the law school, I have misjudged members of the LGBTIQ community....."*

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## Stakeholders lobby for more support

*"Protecting children from different forms of abuse is possible if we work together and coordinate."*

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Art & Global Health Center Africa (ArtGlo) is a Malawian NGO that harnesses the power of the arts to nurture creative leadership, and ignite bold conversations and actions. We envision a world where communities are healthy, open, and active, and people are free to be who they are.

## Executive Director's Note



Dear ArtGlo Community,

I am thrilled to greet you as the new Executive Director of Art and Global Health Center Africa (ArtGlo)! It is an absolute honor to step up from my previous role in this vibrant and dynamic organization, and I am excited to embark on this transformative journey with each and every one of you.

As we set out on this collective mission, I want to express my deep gratitude for the incredible work done by my predecessors Helen Todd and Willson Chivhanga and the dedicated team that has laid the foundation for ArtGlo's success. Together, we will build upon this legacy, pushing boundaries and reaching new horizons.

At ArtGlo, we believe that the arts can inspire new perspectives, foster empathy, and bring people together to address some of the most pressing health and social challenges facing our communities. By harnessing the power of creativity, we strive to nurture creative leadership, ignite bold conversations, and drive meaningful action that can transform lives and build a brighter future. Currently, ArtGlo is working on four thematic areas: Gender Justice, Social Inclusion and Diversity (SID), Youth and Community Engagement (YCE) and Climate and Environmental Justice.

Throughout our journey, we will strive for excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. We will champion the transformative role of the arts in promoting holistic well-being, leadership development in young people, fostering social cohesion, and addressing critical global health challenges. By embracing creativity and the power of dialogue, we will forge connections, bridge divides, and empower individuals to envision and actively create a better world.

I am particularly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for ArtGlo. We will continue to collaborate with local communities, national and global partners to design and implement impactful programs that resonate with our shared values. Together, we will expand our reach, amplify our impact, and leave a lasting legacy that benefits generations to come.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge each and every member of our ArtGlo community, including our incredible staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our cause are the driving force behind our success. I am inspired by your energy and eager to work alongside you as we embark on this new chapter together. I encourage you to stay connected with us through our website, social media channels, and regular newsletters to ensure you don't miss any opportunities to get involved and contribute your unique talents and perspectives.

Thank you for being a part of ArtGlo's journey.

With utmost enthusiasm and gratitude,

Rodger Kumalire Phiri  
Executive Director  
Art and Global Health Center Africa (ArtGlo)

## MAWA project praised at National Event



Stakeholders at the MAWA National Event

At ArtGlo, we believe that CSOs are more knowledgeable and well placed to advocate and mobilise for the change in their society, but most of them have limited capacity and skills to achieve the same. Through our three year United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF) funded MAWA project, we have strengthened the capacity of 50 CSO's. The goal of the MAWA (also translates to mean 'tomorrow' in Chichewa) project was to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) as well as improving their lives by challenging patriarchal social norms and mainstreaming women's empowerment. During the National Event that was held on February 9, 2023, the CSOs shared lessons learnt and recommendations with different partners that we work with.....

<https://artgloafrica.org/make-art-for-women-activism-project-praised-at-national-event/>

## Tiyambe TfD performance transcends power dynamics



ArtGlo's Board Chair and Co-founder, Dr. Galia Boneh dancing with the TfD artists

Theater for Development (TfD) creates a safe space for community members to engage in deep conversations, reflection and urgency to generate collective action toward issues concerning them. With support from Eastern Produce Malawi (EPM) Limited, we are engaging communities surrounding its 18 Tea and Macadamia Estates in Mulanje and Thyolo using TfD in the three-year long Tiyambe Project. During the performance at Nasonia Estate, community members pressed their Village Headman and sought clarification from James Mpando, a member of the Thyolo Police Victim Support Unit (VSU) on how they handle cases of GBV that are reported to them.....

<https://artgloafrica.org/tfd-performance-transcends-power-dynamics/>

## EPM constructs two Victim Support Units in Thyolo and Mulanje



Police Commissioner, Chikondi Chingadza and EPM's Managing Director, David Reynolds (Far left) during the hand-over of Thyolo Victim Support Unit (VSU)

Gender based violence including intimate partner violence is still one of the challenges affecting the people in Malawi, particularly women and girls. The communities surrounding the tea and macademia estates are not spared from this challenge. While interventions to address gender-based violence are being undertaken, lack of proper infrastructures for the victims to utilise as they seek help in the Police Stations is still a problem. In response to this need, Eastern Produce Malawi (EPM) has constructed two Victim Support Units (VSUs) in Thyolo and Mulanje districts through its Women Empowerment Initiative.....



Newly built VSU in Mulanje

<https://artgloafrica.org/epm-constructs-two-victim-support-units-in-thyolo-and-mulanje/>

## Taking the SDGs to the people through Participatory Arts

Ensuring that SDGs are attained is not only the responsibility of people in the offices but the community as well. A majority of people in this nation are not familiar with the goals which makes it hard to holistically attain them. Our Gender Justice Lead, Sharon Kalima Nkhwazi, is of the view that Participatory arts such as dance, songs, drama and TfD can play a crucial role in ensuring that the SDGs are made familiar to each and everyone including children.....



Sharon Kalima Nkhwazi, ArtGlo's Gender Justice Lead

<https://artgloafrica.org/taking-the-sgds-to-the-people/>

**Chikwawa**



Representatives from various government, non-governmental and international organizations matching in solidarity to the venue for the Triple commemoration: 16 Days of Activism, World Aids Day and Candlelight Ceremony.



MAWA's Center for Youth Transformation (CYTO) showcasing their artistic illustration about GBV to the Guest of honor, Chikwawa District Council Chair, Coffat Malunga (In Blue Jacket) on ArtGlo's Pavillion.

**Phalombe**



Representatives of learners, various government, non-governmental and international organizations matching in solidarity to Matawa ground



Representatives of the MAWA CSOs in the District engaging the audience through Image Theatre.

**Blantyre**



Representatives of various MAWA CSOs displaying various messages about GBV at Lunzu Market, our first stop during the whistlestop tours around the district.



One of the participants expressing his view on issues about GBV at Mdeka Trading Centre.

**Thyolo**



Guest of Honor and Police Commissioner of the South East Region, Chikondi Chingadza, shedding more light on the role of both the Police and citizens in addressing GBV in the district.



Tiyambe project TfD artists engaging the audience in a performance about some of the forms of GVB at Thekereni Primary School Ground.

## Breaking social barriers to Human rights and freedoms of LGBTIQ people



*Some of the Primary Justice Actors in Dedza*

Malawi is among the countries where key populations such as the LGBTIQ community are facing various forms of discrimination across different sectors of the society due to their sexual orientation. With support from Southern Africa Litigation Center (SALC), we are implementing the Umunthu Inclusive Society project and we have been engaging Primary Justice Actors (PJAs) to understand the social climate of LGBTIQ people, and its interplay with global health, mental and social wellbeing.

*“I wish I was exposed to this information when I was still at the law school, I have misjudged members of the LGBTIQ community. And, frankly speaking, before this workshop I couldn't provide justice to such people,”* expressed First Grade Magistrate from Mkanda in Mchinji district.

To ensure that the process is all inclusive, individuals from the police service, judiciary, LGBTIQ activist, lawyers and independent human rights activists took part in curriculum development prior to these Umunthu dialogues. The PJA workshops have been conducted in the targeted districts of Mchinji, Dedza, Phalombe and Chikwawa. Participants included Police Victim Support Unit Officers, community policing officers, investigations officers, lay magistrates, community and religious leaders.

This initiative is being complemented by convergence workshops with the LGBTIQ+ community members and their family and friends in Mchinji and Dedza to build a network that will be effective in responding...



*Participants at the Curriculum development workshop in Mangochi*



*Religious and Community leaders workshop in Dwangwa, Nkhotakota*

<https://artgloafrica.org/breaking-social-barriers-to-human-rights-and-freedoms-of-lgbtqi-people/>

## Towards an inclusive District Health Management System



Participants brainstorming at the DHMT workshop

Interconnectedness is one of the highly emphasized aspects of Umunthu. With support from the US State Department, we held a workshop for Dedza and Zomba District Health Management Team (DHMT) members from the 27th to 28th October 2022, to establish and strengthen inclusive systems in their respective districts. Among the diverse professions in attendance were Accountants, Human Resource Managers and Public relations committees. During the conversations, participants freely debated to strengthen the understanding of their role in ensuring inclusive systems...

<https://artgloafrica.org/towards-an-inclusive-district-health-management-system/>

## Umunthu in practice

*"I practice Umunthu to the point that I have angered a lot of people. I have rejected huge sums of money that individuals offer to steal drugs at my office. And these people report me to high authorities claiming that the boy is rude. The Umunthu workshops I have attended has helped me to realize my potential and deny people who attempt to steal medicine meant for the poor people. The realization of my potential has also assisted me to form a Community-Based Organisation (CBO) called 'Tigwirizane' after observing the huge existing gap between health workers and community members who perceived us as drug stealers. This is when I realised that it was us, the health care workers who need to change our mind-set to restore the lost trust."*

Muronya expressed this during the Umunthu Circle Dialogue under the theme, 'Umunthu - The practical way of life'.



Dalitso Muronya narrating how he applies the Umunthu framework

## Stakeholders at National learning and sharing event lobby for more support



*Stakeholders at the National learning and sharing event*

Children as right holders are in a better position to know what they need as well as demand for the same. To strengthen their capacities, we have employed a number of approaches to help them understand their rights, safely advocate and demand accountability from the duty bearers. Children and young women have co-led the campaign design and delivery. We have also facilitated the engagement of police, social welfare, magistrates and labour offices as well as the media throughout the campaign period. We have shared some of the lessons learnt and recommendations with regards to the Unicef Child Protection Campaign Project with partners on January 25, 2023 in Lilongwe.....

<https://artgloafrica.org/stakeholders-at-national-learning-and-sharing-event-lobby-for-more-support/>

## Special Children’s Rights radio program takes the Campaign to the Public

Upon observing the knowledge gap in terms of peoples understanding of Children’s Rights in Malawi, one of the participants in the Unicef Child Rights and Reporting Training, Noel Mkwaila, developed, recorded and produced a Special Child Rights radio program which was aired on Ndirande FM. Mkwaila conceptualized about a program that can bring to light people who are aware about these rights to put across their knowledge to the general public. We participated in the recording of the program in GVH Masaka, TA Machinjiri. Apart from interviewing our key stakeholders in the area who included GVH Masaka, Village Headwoman Chipande, a Child Protection Officer, the VDC Chair, TA Machinjiri’s Clerk, and a Health Care worker, children sung songs and one of them recited a poem. The Program also solicited views from one of the county’s Child Rights Activists, Lucky Mbewe and our YCE Lead, Lekodi Magombo.



*Masaka Youth Club members recording a song for the program*



## Community engagement activities

### Lilongwe



Learners performing a play about Child Rights at Mphanje Primary School, TA Njewa



Children use Traditional dances for Child rights messaging at Phereni Primary School, TA Njewa



Child rights messages put across through choral music at Chimwala School, TA Chiseka

### Blantyre



Learners performing a play about child rights at Chipande Primary School, TA Machinjiri



Learners dancing to music during the campaign at Chigombe Primary School, TA Kuntaja

## Art for Climate Action: Loss and Damage Research



*TfD artists dancing during the performance*

**T**heatre for Development (TfD) is a powerful tool for engaging communities in dialogue and promoting social change. With support from the Scottish Government through the Trocaire fund, we have engaged communities under TA Mwambo in Zomba to understand their lived experiences on non-economic loss and damage (NELD) due to climate change. The TfD performance was also an important step in raising awareness about the community's role in addressing issues of NELD. By engaging the local community in dialogue and learning about their lived experiences, we have also strengthened our understanding of the complex impacts of climate change as well as inspire action to address the same.....

<https://artgloafrica.org/art-for-climate-action-loss-and-damage-research/>

## Documenting non-economic loss and damage through Community-led Photojournalism



*Young people documenting non-economic loss and damage using Photojournalism skills*

We believe the community is better placed to capture and tell stories of their lived experience on Loss and Damage. In this regard, we have nourished the capacities of 10 young people from GVH Chaweza in Zomba and 9 young people from GVH Mambundungu, Mtemangawa and Mbangu in Nsanje with Photojournalism skills to capture the lived experiences with regards to NELD. The photographs and stories collected during the amplifying community voices research project will support advocacy efforts aimed at improving the lives of those impacted by climate change induced NELD.

## Creating an eco-grieving space through the Umunthu Circle Dialogue



Friday Wellos sharing his understanding about NELD through Art.

Communities have the power to inclusively and collectively make meaningful decisions on matters affecting them only when there are platforms where everyone is free to participate. The Umunthu Circles dialogue is one such space where every participant shares their perspectives on matters affecting them. Community leaders, authorities and survivors from GVHs Ngabu and Mbenje of Nsanje took turns in expressing their understanding of issues of NELD according to their lived experiences through art and in-depth conversations. It was disclosed that only a few men are brave enough to report and approach camp authorities when they are faced with this issue because they are private matters. Most of them satisfy their needs outside marriage which has led to the spread of STIs including HIV, Child neglect and deteriorating mental wellbeing among survivors.....

<https://artgloafrica.org/creating-an-eco-grieving-space-through-the-umunthu-circle-dialogue/>

## Letter to Polluter

*“My beloved friend, I am writing this letter with an aim to inform you about how climate change has affected my life. It was in the year 2015, when my heart was caught with fear caused by floods which destroyed my crops and livestock. A lot of my property was also destroyed because of this water. Last year, floods induced by a Cyclone Anna and Gombe came again and destroyed a lot of my property. This has been happening for a long time for more than a decade now. But all this is coming because of the climate change that is caused by industrial fumes that pollute the air. And because of this I have decided to tell you that my life is not at peace because of the things that I have mentioned above.”*

Dyson Mpokosa, Zomba.



**ART &  
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