



ART & GLOBAL HEALTH CENTER
AFRICA

Newsletter

Harnessing the Transformative Power of the Arts

April 2024 - June 2024

Zomba City Festival

"The festival is a great platform for artists like me to showcase my talent, learn and build networks with fellow Pencil artist and lovers of artistic work....."

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Tiyambe Performance breaks barrier to economic participation of women

"There has been some change in my family to the point that my husband gave me k50,000 as capital...."

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LGBTQ members applaud Legal Empowerment Workshops

"The workshop has been eye-opening and we have discovered that we have been unnecessarily threatened..."

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Malawi Climate Resilience documentary amplifies the need for more action

"As they were rescuing me and covering my nakedness, I had my lost my cognitive ability....."

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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 Partner,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this quarter, it fills me with immense pride to witness the continued impact of our endeavors in leveraging the transformative power of the arts to effect sustainable social change. Our commitment to fostering positive change within communities remains steadfast, and the progress we've witnessed is a testament to the dedication of our team and partners.

In our Youth and Community Engagement Programme, we've seen tangible results in Lilongwe rural, where our collaborative efforts with UNICEF and child protection structures have led to enhanced response and effectiveness in child protection and addressing threats to child development and child abuse cases. The statistics now reflect an increase in reporting and redressing of such cases, signaling a positive shift towards ensuring the safety and well-being of our children.

Additionally, our partnership with REPRIEVE to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in Malawi underscores our commitment to advancing human rights and dignity. It's through collective action and advocacy that we can strive towards a more just and equitable society for all.

In our pursuit of equitable justice access for LGBTIQ individuals and other minority groups, our Umunthu Inclusive Society Project, under the Social Inclusion and Diversity Programme, with support from the Southern Africa Litigation Center (SALC), has been instrumental in empowering communities and raising awareness about their rights to justice access within the system. Through "Know Your Champions" initiatives, which are being carried out by magistrates, community leaders, and police officers who are part of the project, we are fostering a culture of inclusivity and ensuring that everyone has equal access to justice.

The Tiyambe project, under our Gender Justice initiative with Eastern Produce Malawi Limited, continues to make significant strides in ending gender-based violence and establishing response mechanisms in tea and macadamia estates in Thyolo and Mulanje. Through the power of theatre for development, we are creating safer and more supportive environments for all individuals by addressing these issues at their roots.

Furthermore, our projects have contributed to national and international conversations on pressing issues such as climate change, gender justice, and child and maternal health. We have conducted and participated in conferences and workshops in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and South Africa, we have facilitated meaningful discussions and exchanged valuable insights that will inform future action and policy decisions.

As we look ahead, let us remain committed to our vision of a more just, inclusive, and equitable world. Together, we can continue to harness the power of the arts to drive positive change and build brighter futures for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our shared mission.

Warm regards,
Rodger Kumalire Phiri
ArtGlo Executive Director.

Zomba City Festival



We have participated at this year's Zomba City Festival where we utilized participatory tools and games to create a fun experience to people from all works of life between the 27th and the 28th of April. On the first day, a number of visitors took their time to brainstorm and express through writing, what an Ideal Zomba City would look like for women, girls, children and minority groups. On the second day, we aired a live broadcast of a session of Artist Liaison where we interacted with visual, tattoo and screenprinting artists from within Zomba and beyond. This was followed by a Karaoke afterparty session where participants sang songs from their favorite artists.

<https://web.facebook.com/reel/3732591033726466>

Science journal recognize Neotree work

We are excited to share that our Patient and Public Involvement work, implemented with support from Neotree and UCL, has been published in the 2024 BMC Proceedings. The online journal recognizes that creative storytelling, through our participatory approaches, is an effective method to foster dialogue and enable patient-driven quality improvement.

Neotree is an app that measures neonatal health. ArtGlo has been supporting the improvement of neonatal healthcare in the Neotree app through a project that explored the lived experience of mothers and families using digital arts in Malawi (KCH) and Zimbabwe (Chionyi Hospital).

BMC Proceedings is part of Springer Nature and has over 300 peer-reviewed journals sharing discoveries from research communities in science, technology, engineering, and medicine.



https://bmcproc.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12919-024-00289-y?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTA-AAR0OOFm-8CXY-Qv8pmimuOGccOAN5ELsL29nEefZpY5ZjBGefpC0-KjAo-g_aem_v6yVP_QbJnRupEwKVhql-

Tiyambe performance breaks barriers to economic participation of women



Gender-based violence manifests in different forms and among them is economic abuse. This happens when a person is restricted from participating in income-generating activities, especially women. People in communities where the Tiyambe Project has reached, have started to demonstrate action against the vice. Gladys Likonga, a mother of six from GVH Naluwade in Chisambo estate, Mulanje, normalized this form of abuse by implication when she had to assume the responsibility of household welfare as her husband was spending his money at the pubs every day.

<https://artgloafrica.org/tiyambe-performance-breaks-barriers-to-economic-participation-of-women/>

GBV messages beyond goes TfD performances

There is a growing tendency among men of not attending community gatherings in Malawi and the Tiyambe TfD performances are not spared. This is also the case when such meetings are held at the weekends and patronage is still skewed towards women, children and the youth. Mlenga CBO coordinator, Tony Kawilikiza, suggests bringing messages about ending GBV to spaces where most men are found.

“Considering that some of the men we are targeting do not show up at community meetings, there is need to devise other alternatives to reach out to them. Therefore, we plan to utilize popular social gatherings of men such as football matches and bao to spread messages about addressing GBV.” Explained Kawilikiza.

He further added that he will continue to apply the skills that the Tiyambe project imparted onto him including the Participatory Rural Communication Appraisal (PRCA). This is a research methodology that involves use of a number of participatory tools to identifying the problems or needs, ranking and selecting the most prevailing issue that presents itself as a root cause.

Kawilikiza applauds this approach as it assists in developing messages that resonate with people in a particular society since they are a true reflection of the reality on the ground. When the message is well delivered, for instance through TfD, it is not challenging for people to relate to their experiences. This ignites bold conversations and actions towards societal issues and eventually fosters social change.



Impact assessment on the Constitutional case



Our SID started the second quarter of the year with an Impact Assessment on the ongoing Constitutional and the Nyasa Rainball Alliance (NRA) registration case on the lives of LGBTQ community members and Rights Defenders. This followed from a consultation meeting with NRA to determine the scope, profound insights and to unearth the technical implications on the same. To identify the key informants for the study, Focus Group Discussions with LGBTQ CSO leaders in Blantyre and Lilongwe and LGBTQ people in Mwanza, Mulanje, Lilongwe, Salima and Mangochi were used. Compelling stories were visually documented for a documentary which has been applauded by SALC and ready for use in international conferences.

LGBTQ community members applaud Legal Empowerment Workshops

The lack of knowledge about the laws and operations of Malawi's legal system continues to fuel human rights abuse and injustices towards LGBTQ community members. The LGBTQ people in the country have been normalizing human rights violations that they face in their everyday life including in their access to public services due to ignorance and fear of taking liable individuals to task. To reduce the knowledge gap on the same, ArtGlo with support from the Southern Africa Ligation Centre (SALC), conducted Legal Empowerment Workshops for LGBTQ community members in Salima, Mwanza, Mulanje, Thyolo, Balaka and Zomba districts.

The workshops utilized participatory techniques through which it was revealed that a majority of the LGBTQ community members do not report cases of human rights violations. This propelled the Legal speaker, to highlight the laws pertaining same sex relations in Malawi and also how the legal systems in the country operate.....



<https://artgloafrica.org/lgbtq-community-applaud-legal-empowerment-workshops/>

Art for Nthaka Yathu



*"ANYWHERE EVERYWHERE, WE ALL CAN"
"PENAPALIPONSE TONSE TIKHOZA"*

Art for Nthaka yathu is an intervention aimed at strengthening community resilience through building, nurturing and nourishing the capacities of youth champions for climate change and health. Climate Resilience and adaptation workshops, project development and a community presentation event are the main activities that have been set aside for this intervention. The youth champions will develop climate resilience project prototypes that will undergo scrutiny by a panel of judges from ArtGlo and the community. Three successful prototypes will also be presented at a community presentation event to familiarize the designed intervention with community members. Seed funding will be given to the winning teams to implement their projects.

The project is working with Youth from Zomba Jali area who have demonstrated their passion in reducing the impact of climate change in their communities through a number of self-driven initiatives after an Inclusive Climate Justice Champions Workshop that they attend in the first quarter of this year.

Malawi Climate Resilience Documentary amplifies the need for more action

**FORECASTING
HEALTHY FUTURES
GLOBAL SUMMIT**

**Profiles in Climate
Resilience**

In May, ArtGlo submitted a Climate Resilience Profile for Malawi for a possible beaming at the Forecasting Healthy Futures (FHF) Global Summit in Arzerbaijan under the theme, 'From Awareness to Action - multi-disciplinary approaches to saving lives and builing resilience'. Our submission was selected to be part of a series of profiles and stories of resilience around the world compile by FHF to illustrate the many ways global warming is affecting human health and to give a voice to champions and innovators who are driving regional solutions. The profile that we submitted amplified the voices of survivors of climate change induced disasters in Malawi and the need for sustainable action to reduce the impacts of the same.

<https://youtu.be/5HEQHJzxXeA?si=oBsdXcbpPS928jSb>



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<https://artgloafrica.org/>