



ART & GLOBAL HEALTH CENTER AFRICA



Harnessing the Transformative Power of the Arts

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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Abbreviations

ADC	Area Development Committees
ArtGlo	Art and Global Health Center Africa
CAP	Community Action Plans
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DBU	Development Broadcasting Unit
EPM	Eastern Produce Limited
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GVH	Group Village Head
HCD	Human-Centered Design
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender And Intersex
MICGBV	Malawi Irish Consortium on GBV
NELD	Non-economic Loss and Damage
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PLWD	People Living With Disabilities
SALC	Southern Africa Litigation Center
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TAs	Traditional Authorities
TfD	Theatre for Development
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VDC	Village Development Committees
VCPC	Village Civil Protection Committee

ABOUT ARTGLO

WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT

To achieve our goals, ArtGlo is dedicated to supporting the Malawian government and other key stakeholders in realizing the Malawi 2063 Vision and the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe in harnessing the transformative power of the arts to uncover crucial social issues and collaboratively develop community-driven solutions for sustainable social change. This approach empowers our stakeholders to take ownership and manage the changes they aspire to see, while also allowing us to continue enhancing our expertise in our key focus areas. Over the past decade, ArtGlo has established a strong impact and track record, positioning itself as a thought leader in community engagement through participatory arts, the Umunthu philosophy, and Human-Centered Design methodologies.

Mission

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

Partnerships and collaboration

We use partnerships and collaboration at multiple levels to advance our work, and to ensure that our creative approaches can complement 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, LGBTI people and people living with HIV/AIDS channel their voice and tell their stories.

Vision

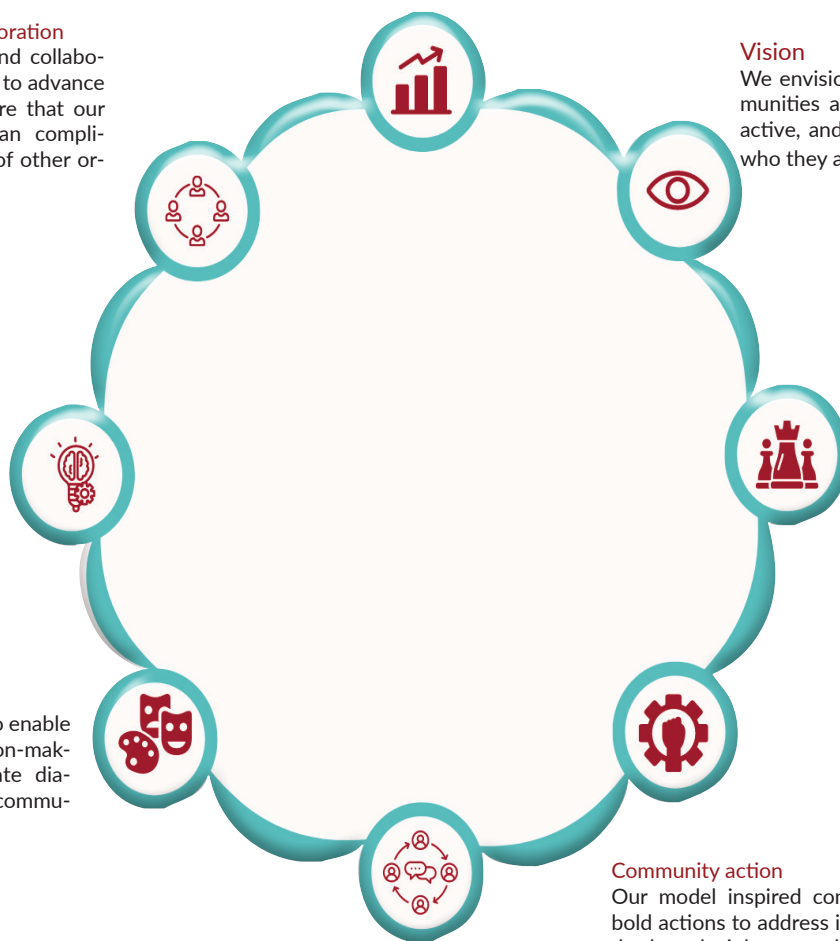
We envision a world where communities are healthy, open, and active, and people are free to be who they are.

Community Leadership

Community voice and action are realised through community leadership. ArtGlo supported the growth and development of local leaders to tackle local problems. Through our Students with Dreams programme, we supported hundreds of young people to start social impact projects, entrepreneurship and contribute to sustainable development. Our work with community-based organisations was built on skills exchange and knowledge nourishment which enhanced their capacity to lead and drive change.

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.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

To Our Esteemed Partners, Stakeholders, and Community Members,

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share the remarkable progress ArtGlo has made in positively impacting communities and advancing towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and Malawi 2063. Despite the challenges, 2023 was a year of significant achievements, thanks to the dedication and collaboration of our partners, staff, and the communities we serve.

Under the Make Art for Women Activism's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls project, we successfully completed the project where we trained 57 Civil Society Organizations (SCOs) across five districts in the utilization of Human-Centered Design research, project development, and prototyping. These trainings have empowered SCOs to co-create and co-implement with us projects aimed at addressing violence against women and girls, fostering safer and gender conscious communities.

Our Social Inclusion and Diversity program saw meaningful engagement with primary justice actors and provided legal literacy trainings to LGBTIQ individuals in four districts. This initiative extended to their families, friends, and community leaders, creating a supportive environment. The primary justice actors designed and implemented interventions to address justice access disparities faced by LGBTIQ people and other marginalized and vulnerable groups, promoting equity and justice.

In our Climate Justice Project, we delved into the lived experiences of survivors of non-economic loss and damage induced by climate change in Zomba and Nsanje districts. Through participatory arts performances, Umunthu circle dialogues, and photojournalism, we brought these stories to the forefront. Additionally, we hosted educational webinars addressing the intersection of sexual and reproductive health and climate crisis management in Malawi, highlighting the critical need for integrated approaches to these issues.

Our Youth and Community Engagement program facilitated the formation of community structures aimed at enhancing child protection agendas in Blantyre and Lilongwe rural areas. We also engaged teachers and students in using art to discuss comprehensive sexuality education in secondary schools, fostering open and informed discussions among young people. A notable partnership between Neotree, ArtGlo, CPH (Zimbabwe), and KCH (Malawi) led to a project addressing the lack of sensitivity to patients' socio-cultural beliefs surrounding childbirth and the newborn. Utilizing participatory arts, we strengthened relationships between mothers and healthcare providers, leading to improvements in the Neotree system.

The MEIRU project is following 20 families (10 in Lilongwe and 10 in Chilumba) to produce a documentary series on what it means to grow up in Malawi, focusing on how cultural aspects affect the health and development of children from pregnancy up to three years old.

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners: different government ministries, Southern Africa Litigation Centre, United Nations Trust Fund, MEIRU, Eastern Produce Malawi Limited, REPRIEVE, TROCAIRE, UNICEF, UNESCO, NEO Tree, Plan International, and UNDP. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your invaluable contributions.

Looking forward, we remain committed to engaging communities in addressing societal challenges for sustainable change. Together, we can continue to create impactful and lasting solutions for a better future.

With deepest appreciation,

Dr. Galia Boneh.
Board Chairperson, ArtGlo

Rodger Kumalire Phiri.
Executive Director, ArtGlo.



GENDER JUSTICE

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Gender Justice best signifies our inter-sectional approach that centers the diverse needs, experiences, and leadership of people most impacted by gender based violence, child marriages, economic disparities, and technical capacities. The approach helps achieve both equity (equal distribution of resources, access, and opportunities) and equality (equal outcomes for all). Gender justice also means the full equality and equity between women and men in all spheres of life, resulting in women jointly, and on an equal basis with men, defining and shaping the policies, structures and decisions that affect their lives and society as a whole. In 2023 we made remarkable progress in our two flagships projects MAWA and Tiyambe. We held a National Sharing and Learning event in Lilongwe to share best practices and lessons with our partners, stakeholders, the media and the general public as one of the final stages of the MAWA project. A coalition of drama clubs in the Tiyambe Project also performed at the UN-IMA theatre festival to ignite bold conversations on sexually transmitted grades in Universities.

REACH

7,854
Beneficiaries

3,175
Women

1,555
Men

1791
Girls

1,151
Boys

90
Stakeholders

48
Drama club
members

33
GBV cases
reported

11
GBV cases
addressed

MILESTONES

MAKE ART FOR WOMEN ACTIVISM (MAWA)

The Make Art for Women Activism (MAWA) project, funded by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF), is a 3-year initiative aimed at improving the lives of women and girls in Malawi. The project focuses on strengthening grass-root Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) by providing training on different areas, such as human-centered design, participatory arts approaches, communications, monitoring and evaluation, and finance. In 2023, we finalised all the activities under the project from our CSOs and consulted a firm to conduct an endline evaluation.

During the National Event that was held on February 9, 2023, the CSOs shared lessons learned and recommendations with different partners that we work with. Representatives of CSOs in the five implementation districts shared presentations and performed a number of Participatory arts at the event. ArtGlo's Board Chairperson, Dr. Galia Boneh, and Mulanje District Gender officer, Mr Jamu, also shared their remarks at the event.

Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Rose-

lyn Makhumula commended the CSOs' ability to es-

tablish new partnerships, and executive grant proposals, communicate and built networks for their projects effectively, and support women and girls in their communities through scholarships and business opportunities.



We successfully submitted our final report to UNTF which was followed by a visit by the Fund's representatives and publication of our work in the UNTF Movement Building Series. We were invited to UNTF's first Regional Learning Exchange summit in Nairobi which was attended by our Executive Director.

GENDER JUSTICE

TIYAMBE PROJECT

The Tiyambe Project is a 3-year project (2021-2024) that is promoting gender equality and tackling sexual harassment in tea and macadamia growing communities in targeted areas of Mulanje and Thyolo. Using Theatre for Development as the primary methodology, the project trains local Drama groups in tea estates and surrounding communities to identify issues and create performances that address these real-life issues and situations. The performance culminates into the creation of multi-stakeholder Community Action Plans which are community-owned, led, and funded.

In 2023, we implemented the second phase of the project in EPM's estates, namely; Masawa and Mianga in Thyolo as well as Chisambo and Likanga in Mulanje. We are remaining with 2 performances in Kasembekeka estate in Thyolo and Thornwood and Eldorado estate in Mulanje. The project intervention has had a significant impact on the fabric of the communities. There have been notable shifts in the power dynamics in households which has seen an improvement in the welfare of men, women, children and boys in the respective project communities. It has been revealed through post-performance interviews as well as field monitoring visits that the general attitudes towards gender equality have increased positive outlook on the power of women in their homes and communities.



Additionally, in some of the communities there are strong efforts to reduce marginalization and increased protection of a girl child, a vulnerable group that would previously be denied education as well as sent off to be married prematurely. This positive development is set to continue as stakeholders have put in place community action plans (CAPs) to help in the sustainability of their efforts to combat the different forms of GBV in their respective communities.

Drama club members have through the course of their trainings and performances been capacitated to

be social change agents within their communities and take an active role against any forms of GBV they encounter as well as working towards changing harmful social norms and practices that reinforce gender inequality.

Best Practices Conference on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

We shared some of the practical lessons and recommendations at the conference that was jointly organised by the Ministry of Gender and the Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence between the 1st and 2nd of August 2023 in Lilongwe. We presented on, 'Effectiveness of Theatre for Development in Facilitating Dialogues on Ending GBV and Achieving Gender Justice in Rural Areas in Malawi'. The Tiyambe Project Lead, Esther Harawa, was one of the panelists at the event and shared key insights from the Project.



UNIMA Theatre Festival

During the 2023 16 days of activism against gender based violence, a coalition of drama clubs that we work with in EPM's Limbuli, Namasalima and Ruo Estates in Mulanje as well as Mianga and Masawa Estates in Thyolo, showcased a TfD performance about the vice at the UNIMA Theatre Festival. The play exposed the harmful effects of sexually transmitted grades in institutions on higher learning and advocated for breaking the silence on the same.



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 everyday.

“I had normalized abuse from my husband whom I have been married to for some time now and I thought that is how marriages work. My husband was a drunkard and disregarded the welfare of the family.” Said Likonga.

She adds that this left the family in dire poverty as she was relying on peace works which were never enough to meet basic needs of her family. Struggling to find food and putting on rags was not strange for herself and her children. She then heard that some youth in her village have been selected to participate in some training but was not sure of the specific areas of focus.

In a short time, there was a community mobilization campaign in her village when she heard that the youth that went for training will be having a performance. Fortunately, she attended the event where she got to learn about the different forms of GBV. This is when she realized that her husband was abusing her which was also affecting the education of her children and general family welfare.

Likonga decided to approach her husband and shared with him what had transpired at the performance so that he might have a change heart. The man listened to her concerns but she could still feel that there is something missing. This prompted her to reach out to some of the drama club members who came to her house and provided guidance to the couple.

“Since that initiative, there was some change in my family to the point that my husband gave me k50,000 as capital for me to start a business to support our family. I decided to venture in a sugarcane business here at my house,” explained Likonga.

There has been a gradual change in her family since she started selling sugarcane. About 2 months of doing this business, she invested the profits in another venture of selling wrappers (zitenje) on credit to women in her village. Likonga expressed immense gratitude to all who intervened in transforming her misfortunes including the Tiyambe team which trained youth in her area. She also pleads with women to approach local structures at their disposal to address any GBV they face.

Meanwhile, one of the drama club members contributing to such transformative stories is a survivor of GBV as well. Esther Dyton (26) is a mother of three and was not allowed to engage in income generating activities due to marital insecurities. Dyton’s husband was afraid that her wife will become promiscuous when she starts doing business as some women do but after she learned about GBV and how to address it, she managed to change his attitude.

“The coming in of ArtGlo enabled me to learn a number of things which I was also sharing with my family. At the trainings, I learned about various forms of GBV and among them was economic abuse. After the trainings, I decided to approach my husband and he understood me. I then started doing business, all thanks to ArtGlo.” Narrates Dyton.

Recognizing the profound impact associated with Safari drama club where Dyton is part of, she vows to continue conducting TfD performances beyond the Tiyambe Project. She is confident that together with her team, they are well versed to do any TfD performance on any topic, to facilitate learning, community dialogue and action toward social change.

TfD PERFORMANCE INSPIRES MERCY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL



Mercy, not her real name, is a 19-year-old girl who withdrew from school after being impregnated by her boyfriend and forced into marriage. Her parents made it clear that they could not take care of the pregnant daughter and without any reservations, she was told to be with the man who had impregnated her. She had no choice but to enter into marriage and drop out of school at the age of 15. She gives an account about her life as a young mother and the turning point for the predicament she was in.

“My life completely changed after moving out of my parent’s house since I had to shoulder the responsibility of being both a wife and mother. I was failing to get enough food for the family and to clothe myself and my child. I was living a stressful life....” laments Mercy.

She further added that she had to rely on piecemeal work to make ends meet. Mercy’s mother concurs that she regretted sending her daughter away to a man who was not responsible for providing for the needs of his family. The family was also the talk of the village as the consequences of the irrational decision of the parents could not be hidden. Fortunately, there was a Tiyambe TfD performance that was performed at EPM’s Chisambo Estate where Mercy and her mother also attended. The performance exposed the plight of a young girl who was also forced into marriage after being impregnated by her boyfriend and had to go through some complications during delivery.

“The performance ignited a critical reflection and desire to go back to school upon seeing how a young girl in the play suffered due to teenage pregnancy which is similar to what I went through. My determination to go back to school grew stronger,” expressed Mercy.

The performance also assisted Mercy’s mother in finally making a bold decision to remove her daughter from marriage, help her raise her grandchild, and readmit her back to school. Mercy went back to school and she is now in STD 7 at Nalingula Primary School in Mulanje. She urges other young girls to go back to school because education is a human right for all regardless of one’s gender, sex, age, and status.

“I plea with fellow parents and the nation at large to stop marrying off their teenage daughters. If our teenage daughter has been impregnated, it is our responsibility to take care of her and allow her to go back to school after delivery. This will help in safeguarding their future,” pleads Mercy’s mother.

Mercy dreams of being a nurse because she is inspired when she sees young ladies like her serving patients whenever she visits the hospital. She pleads with young girls that they should not get carried away with what people in their community say against them when they return to school as young mothers. Through her career, she also aspires to contribute to the development of her community.

IMPACTS

- 11 GBV cases at Kankhomba in Masawa estate, Thyolo, have been addressed completely by the community stakeholders themselves. 15 women have also come in an open and report changed after the performance.
- 18 women and girls at Kwenengweni in Masawa, Thyolo, have managed to report gbv cases and been assisted.
- There are proper reporting structures and referrals. For instance, drama club members are acting as referrals.
- The project has fostered unity and positive relationships between the community stakeholders and district stakeholders, as well as between community stakeholders and the EPM company.
- The Tiyambe project has contributed to Youth empowerment through TfD trainings that also incorporates issues of research and basic life skills.

CHALLENGES

- It was difficult to observe behaviour change in some communities as the nature of some of the action plans require them to be implemented for longer than the monitoring visits window provides.
- There has been an improvement in terms of male attendance during performances in this quarter. However, it is still a challenge to get more men. We have trained our drama club members and stakeholders to utilize other community activities or meetings such as funerals and football bonanzas.
- Low patronage in some of the estates such as Likanga Estate in Mulanje and two villages at Masawa estate in Thyolo. One of the reasons was that most of the community members own businesses and at the time of the performance, they had gone to do their businesses. We have asked the chiefs and other stakeholders to rely the information to those community members during other functions such as funerals.
- Inactiveness of some drama club members. Other members have travelled to South Africa to look for greener pasture hence creating a gap in the club. For sustainability, we have encouraged the remaining members of such drama clubs to continue with their efforts and organize short

plays or educative comedies that will allow few members of the club to ably perform. Additionally, they should recruit and train other interested youth in their villages. For future recruitment process, it may be important to consider already existing drama groups as compared to creating a group for the project's purposes.

WAY FORWARD

Considering that the MAWA project has officially been closed, we have intensified our search for grants and partnerships. We look forward to finalizing Phase 2 of the Tiyambe Project with the two final performances in Kasembereka and Eldorado and Thornwood estates. In 2024, we will be implementing the last Phase of the three-year-project and we continue to plea for more support to upscale the initiative to other villages. This is so because we only engaged 4 villages per estate and the vast nature of some estates impedes some drama clubs from committing to self initiatives on the same. This can also be attributed to the need to involve duty bearers and other responsible personnel who have to travel from the district headquarters.

TESTIMONIES

"TfD is good approach because the drama club members are teaching many people at once, both men and women."
Said one female audience member, Kasembereka Estate in Thyolo

"TfD has taught us things and have helped us to be open to talk about GBV and because of the play, we now know more about GBV", said one male audience member, Chisambo Estate in Mulanje

"My role as a master trainer made me forget about my wife leaving me. I did not even have the time to be thinking about her and what she did. I have learned so much about GBV and have been able to improve my mental health as I work towards bringing change in my community."
Expressed Matthews Kuruwe, Thyolo Master trainer.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (YCE)

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The “Youth and Community Engagement program” is an initiative that seeks to empower young people and promote community-driven development. The program works with local structures and young people to provide thought leadership, activism, invention, critical conversation, problem solving and much more. In addition, the program encourages youth participation in community development by supporting projects that address local needs such as health, education, and child protection. The program uses innovative approaches such as human-centered design and participatory art to engage young people in discussions on social issues affecting their communities. Through this program, young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge to become agents of change and contribute to the development of their communities.

REACH

13,290

Beneficiaries

3,546

Women

2,717

Men

2,506

Girls

2,076

Boys

2,416

Stakeholders

13

Drama clubs

16

Students with Disability

MILESTONES

UNICEF ENDING VAC, VAW AND GBV/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Activities

Ending VAC, VAW and GBV:

The project continues the child protection work that ArtGlo has been doing since 2022 in Lilongwe and Blantyre. This iteration looks at holding both campaigns that raise awareness on VAC/W and GBV and also deliver community dialogue sessions with stakeholders in the TAs to bring out underlying issues and strengthen referral systems. We held planning workshops with stakeholders at the Lilongwe district council and later at the Blantyre district councils to develop campaigns in March and April 2023.



The key stakeholders who participated in the activity included Child Protection Workers, District Informa-

tion Officers, Area Development Committee Leaders, District Social Welfare Office representatives, Police Victim Support Unit, One Stop Center, Youth, Community Victim Support Unit

The ArtGlo team also had an orientation meeting on campaign materials. This allowed for the team to get familiar with the implementing materials. It also brought key stakeholders together with the team to get more insights on the district level structures and how they work together. The Blantyre DSWO explained the gaps in child protection between the OSC, PVSU, CVSU and child justice courts and where the campaigns can support best. In late October and November 2023 we held campaigns in Blantyre and set up activities to continue in Lilongwe the following year.

Emergency Response work:

In May 2023 Cyclone Freddy hit the Southern region of Malawi. ArtGlo with support from UNICEF supported a back to school campaign in Blantyre and Mulanje. The work included support in the distribution of IEC materials and relief materials on PSEA, GBV & VAC in disaster affected schools and raise awareness on PSEA, GBV & VAC in disaster affected schools. ArtGlo targeted 6 camps (3 in Blantyre and 3 in Mulanje) with messaging on going back to school as well as addressing critical issues on GBV and VAC through participatory approaches. This included conducting Umunthu Circles and drama club performances in the camps to address the issues emerging in camps.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (YCE)

ArtGlo did further work in August to October of 2023 in supporting the strengthening of CBOs in Blantyre, Phalombe and Maulanje through a training workshop that helped to capacitate them to support communities during an emergency. The CBOs conducted community campaigns to sensitize the communities on their work.

To further support the emergency response work ArtGlo conducted one stop center trainings for district hospital OSC and surrounding centers (3 others) and representatives from Gender, police and child protection in Mulanje and Nsanje. The trainings lasted 5 days in each respective district and led to improvements in service delivery systems in those districts.



Success stories

1. Mary (59), narrates her own story that she encountered when she tested HIV/AIDS. Her then husband left her and she was unable to take care of her young children because she was very ill. The time the man was leaving, her children were under five years old and it was challenging to keep them in school. She also mentioned that the husband had been abusing them when he was with them. When she resolved to report this to the court; the man ran away when he heard of the summons. The court advised her to find money as transport to go get her husband because they wanted to hear from his side before they could give judgment. Since reporting at the court, she felt that the issue had been resolved.

2. Ms. Cecilia was married with twins but her husband was not doing any income generating activity. Instead Ms Cecilia was farming and a small business. Her husband would sell all the maize and use the money for alcohol. He reached an extent of selling fertilizer, for the family's farm, to buy alcohol. One day Ms Cecilia made money amounting to 35,000 kwacha and planned to buy food for the family. Instead, the husband took it and bought alcohol. This made life difficult for Ms Cecilia and she felt this was

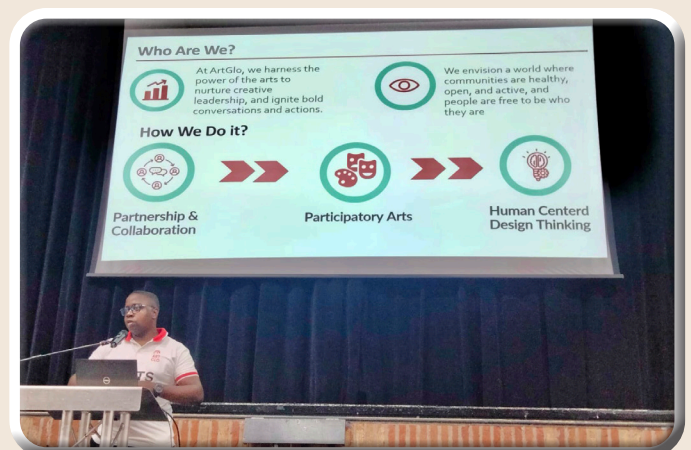
abuse to her. As of now, Ms Cecilia divorced her husband and she is now able to provide for herself and her children and she survived an abusive marriage.

NEOTREE

Neotree is a specially designed system which uses cutting edge digital technology to track and support the care of neonates. It has been deployed at KCH (Malawi) and CPH (Zimbabwe). Research conducted revealed concerns some mothers/carers felt that healthcare professionals (HCPs) lack sensitivity to patients' social-cultural beliefs surrounding childbirth, the newborn and challenges using digital health platform. Through partnership between Neotree, ArtGlo, CPH and KCH, we conducted a project to address these concerns, strengthen relationships between service beneficiaries and Health Care Providers (HCP) and bring improvements to Neotree system.

We worked with 20 mothers from both rural and urban areas, with varying levels of literacy and whose babies had a range of conditions and outcomes, who were admitted at KCH and CPH between December 2020 and July 2021, and 10 from each facility.

Mothers attended two creative storytelling workshops. They were trained to surface their stories of pregnancy, motherhood, and/or experiences of seeking healthcare including using digital health systems. In between the workshops, they captured and documented their chosen story using participatory arts methodologies (photo-voice, film, drawing). The mothers then showcased these narratives at an exhibition at KCH and CPH, attended by Ministry of Health officials, senior hospital management, HCPs and NGO representatives. Finally, a 3 -day interface workshop was held between mothers and HCPs to enable critical reflection on the issues highlighted within the mothers' stories and identify priority areas for improvement.



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (YCE)

2023 was a transition year since we had just finished the first iteration of neotree the previous year. Most of the work was conceptualizing the next stage and setting up the activities. We also presented at the world children's day in London about the success of the public engagement work and the participatory arts model.

Success stories

- World children day went very well with a team going to London and presenting. The event was very well received with it being prominently featured on the UCL newsletter.
- The project was recognized and presented at the Neonatal Health Conference in South Africa as well as the Malawi Health Quality conference in 2023.

MEIRU

This project is following 20 families (10 Lilongwe, 10 Chilumba) and using video voice, and other forms of art to produce a documentary series on what it means to grow up in Malawi, looking mainly at how the cultural aspects affect the health and development of children. It is targeting from pregnancy up to 3 years.

We have completed the training for the field team for both Lilongwe and Chilumba. We held a 4 day sessions in May and June where we developed and refined the recruitment protocol and orientation package. We also went through the technical side of how to capture additional footage and the general structure of the docuseries. We are scheduled to begin recruiting participants end of June 2023. In late August we had sessions with mothers to develop the outline and script for the first documentary.

UNESCO

The main activity was a two-day outside-of-school dialogue Life Skills Education (LSE) between students and teachers in the district of Nkhatabay. UNESCO and the MoE were the stakeholders involved. ArtGlo conducted the event, to gather information on LSE to inform UNESCO's O³ Programme. The youth-teacher dialogue aimed to create a safe space for students and teachers to discuss experiences with LSE delivery in schools, as well as express their needs for LSE. The event included several activities that targeted young people as well as the life skills teachers from the schools. The dialogue brought together students and teachers from different schools to exchange different perspectives. This was facilitated using different participatory methodologies such as role play,

drama, and music, which allowed for the learning and sharing to be interactive and participant-driven.

Phase 1: Preparations and groundwork.

Inception meetings

Our team worked with the EDM office in Mzuzu and the CEO in Nkhatabay district to develop the full event plan and engaged key stakeholders, including representatives from the schools and EDM.

Participants

ArtGlo worked with the CEOs and EDMs offices to identify 20 schools overall, dividing them between the 2 centres, depending on the distribution of schools, topography and availability. Each event had 100 participants (85 students, including young people with disabilities, and 15 teachers), making it 200 participants overall. We worked with the Special Needs coordinator in identifying learners with disabilities (16 students), and teachers to assist in supporting them during the event. Two suitable locations for the dialogues were selected: Mpamba Secondary School and Bandawe Secondary School.



Performance development

Two host schools were selected to develop participatory performances, which were also part of the dialogues. This performance was a key highlight of the event as it explored the learner's perception of sex and relationships. For development, ArtGlo worked with students and teachers to identify key areas in their understanding of sex and relationships and develop a participatory performance. A school per event showcased a performance to facilitate discussion.



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (YCE)

Phase 2: Execution of Event

The first event started on November 27th to 28th, 2023 at Mpamba Secondary School. We had 100 participants in total, 85 of whom were students and 15 teachers. The second event took place from November 30th to December 1st, 2023 at Bandawe Secondary School, with the same number of participants. The EDM, CEO and journalists attended the event. We ensured that all in attendance were aware of our strict child protection policy and that attendees felt safe and free to engage.

Phase 3: Evaluation Report

After the events, our team compiled all the feedback and generated takeaways. ArtGlo also followed up with a few selected schools to get retrospective feedback from some participants about the event and further input for the report.

UNESCO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION INSPIRES NEW WAYS OF TEACHING



Miss White Kaluwa, a life skills teacher from Kaluwa CDSS, believes that Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) called Life skills Education (LSE) in Malawi, is an integral part in equipping students with important information about their reproductive health. CSE helps students to understand the transformation and changes that happen to them as they go through adolescence. They go through body changes and issues of identity and self-esteem. The advantage of the CSE delivery approach is that most students are able to participate and there is good interaction between the teachers and the students in so doing students are willing to take, understand and ask questions to grasp more information. The current approach undermines its effectiveness since the subject has been combined with social studies

She participated in a Youth teacher dialogue (YTD) that brought together teachers and learners to discuss their experience in LSE. She further said that throughout her teaching years, her perceptions on CSE/LSE were that she was just teaching it as a mere subject for the students to learn. Going forward she would now want them to learn from other students through group discussions.

Miss White expressing how she has benefited from the YTD event that was conducted by ArtGlo. The coming in of the event opened her mind to new, comprehensive and interesting ways on how to go about delivering her lessons. "Now I will apply what I learnt in my teaching skills for my students to easily grasp" reported Miss White.

"I have learned that for students to understand Life Skills there's need to be provision of the necessary resources and advanced teaching methodologies," said White to shed more light about her experience.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (YCE)

"COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE GIVEN IN ITS ENTIRETY"- SAYS BENSON



Benson, a lover of Life skills Education (LSE), synonymous with CSE, shares that the subject lays out ways on how he can live, both socially and mentally. He has been learning life skills since primary school, from class 1 to class 8. In secondary he decided to also take the subject from Form 1 to 4. He is of the view that LSE is a beneficial subject but it is limited in schools. He said, "I am partially satisfied by the way LSE is taught because some of our teachers are not open when delivering some topics which leave learners with a wrong option." Teachers do not cover all the necessary information for the students and as such they lack accurate information.

ArtGlo conducted a youth teacher dialogue in

Nkhatabay in which students and teachers shared their view on CSE. One of the findings was that students learn a lot from outside of school knowledge systems. On top of this, the limited information that they learn in school leaves them vulnerable in inaccurate opinions on some of the key topics in CSE.

"This has led to my friends filling the missing information on their own as well as getting wrong information from their peers and other people. This lands then into dangerous consequences."

Emphasized Benson.

Benson is of the view that this is something that needs to change. Better accurate methodologies can be used to reach youth and information should be given in its entirety.

The dialogues helped him to acquire some knowledge and has assisted him to know other ways of delivering the subject. He applauded the participatory approach to learning because it enables sharing of enough information to the students.

He couldn't help but say that, "I really liked the use of songs and plays because they aid and improve understanding of concepts much better. I plea with teachers to be open when delivering the subject just as you have done it."

IMPACTS

- We successfully trained and strengthened the capacity of CBOs in Blantyre, Mulanje and Phalombe. We also provided them with financial support to conduct activities on child protection, ending VAC, VAW and GBV which included awareness campaigns.
- Improvements of service delivery systems in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mulanje, Nsanje and Phalombe.
- With different interventions under the UNICEF project, we managed to directly reach out to over 10000 people and about 3,000 indirectly making a total of over 13000 beneficiaries which included men women, children, orphans, people with disabilities from 4 districts.
- Developed a policy brief on inclusive education
- Report on CSE views of teachers and learners in Malawi

- Supporting of the revision of the Malawi LSE curriculum

CHALLENGES

- Funding delays and its impacts on project implementation efficiency: One significant challenge we encountered during the course of some of our project is the delay in receiving funds. While we appreciate the support and the complexities involved in the fund disbursement process, the extended waiting period has resulted in significant setbacks in the implementation of critical project activities.
- Working multilaterally provides its own set of challenges. The team pushes on an plans ahead for unexpected occurrences.
- In the MEIRU project, timeline shifted due to delay in putting footage together by filmmaker.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (YCE)

WAY FORWARD

- Continued partnership and collaboration: As ArtGlo we believe in the power of collaboration and hence we will maintain our partnership with social welfare agencies, police departments and other stakeholders. We will collaborate closely to ensure seamless communication and coordination in looking at reported cases of child abuse.
- Continued capacity building: ArtGlo will provide ongoing training and capacity-building initiatives for community members, CBOs, law enforcement and personnel on child protection in the context of remote support.
- We Look forward to the start of physical activities in Malawi and Zimbabwe in 2024. We are also adding one new hospital in Zimbabwe.
- We are continuing to support the revision of the LSE curriculum with the MOE.



TESTIMONIES

“ I never realized that abuse could take so many forms, but now I know that I can identify it and seek help.”

An audience member from TA Lundu

“ I want to thank Artglo on behalf of TA Njewa and my community for bringing campaign awareness activities. Artglo worked with us in raising awareness on violence against women, children and GBV, and we have seen change in our community.”- NJEWA ADC chair

“ With Artglo’s support, we created a film to empower and inspire health workers, police, and Umunthu projects, advocating unwavering respect for human rights, even among minority groups.”

Caleb Muchungu, Alive organization.

“ The performances are carrying important messages, this is why you see people like myself here, this only shows that the government is in support of the work.”

Mulanje SWO officer

“ I really liked the use of songs and plays because they aid and improve understanding of concepts much better. I plea with teachers to be open when delivering the subject just as you have done it.”

A teacher from St Augustine CDSS

“ I have acquired a lot of experience in handling negative peer pressure and harmful sexual behaviors.”

Chimwemwe Kaponda.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Our social inclusion and diversity program aims to address differences in public service provision, particularly in the health, justice, and social sectors. At the same time, we're committed to promoting social inclusion and equality for all, grounded in a human rights perspective.

To further these goals, we progressively promoted justice by inducting inclusion champions that will be advancing justice in all the four districts of Mchinji, Dedza, Chikwawa and Phalombe through the Umunthu Inclusive Society Project. These chosen individuals have shown greater and deeper understanding of Umunthu and pledged their support towards advancement of the same in justice delivery.

In 2023, we successfully demonstrated the ability and the multifaceted nature of the Umunthu Circles in igniting bold conversations to unearth the lived experiences of survivors of non-economic loss and damage in Zomba and Nsanje districts. We facilitated Youth Connekt dialogues in Blantyre, Mzuzu and Lilongwe cities using the Umunthu framework. We further shared facilitation techniques with CSOs in Kasungu District through the Plan Malawi Social Inclusion Workshops.

REACH

378

Beneficiaries

100

Youth leaders

80

PJA

78

LGBTQ

71

Family & Friends

42

NELD Survivors

7

CSOs



MILESTONES

UMUNTHU INCLUSIVE SOCIETY PROJECT

The project finalized the follow-up workshops in Phalombe, Mchinji and Chikwawa followed up by convergence workshops. This marked the finalization of most of the implementing activities of the project. Through the follow-ups that were conducted in all of the districts, the project has registered tremendous individual shift of perceptions towards LGBTQ persons. This has in turn improved quality of care. The report also highlights the significant role that the family and friends that were engaged in project are playing in the life of the LGBTQ community members. They have become their complete allies and an education resource for others in their communities.

The convergence workshops have proven to be the efficient channel in fostering and building of relationships between the PJA's and LGBTQ community members. This in turn is to lead to better and perhaps

sustained service access and provision.



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

YOUTH CONNEKT MALAWI WORKSHOPS

Youth Connekt Malawi is a youth empowerment and development initiative, by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and UNDP, aimed at addressing the challenges faced by young people in Malawi. The program focuses on promoting entrepreneurship, skills development, technology, innovation, and employment opportunities for the youth. The SID team successfully led the facilitation of youth connekt workshops in Lilongwe, Blantyre and Mzuzu. Through the lenses of Umunthu, the engagements facilitated connections among youth leaders to advance their endeavors.

Umunthu circle discussions brought together youth leaders to discuss pertinent issues stifling or enabling their participation in development and the civic space, and their particular roles in it. The circles which were facilitated through creative participatory approaches, culminated in the formulation of actionable plans after a self-critical analysis of what has been working, what hasn't and what lessons could be drawn from both perspectives and adopted going forward.



ARTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

In 2023, Umunthu circles revealed the versatility of the Umunthu concept. The approach was utilized in this research project, implemented with support from SCIAF through Trocaire, that was conducted in Zomba and Nsanje districts. Additionally, the approach created a platform for survivors on non-economic loss and damage (NELD) to share their lived experiences, fears, anxieties, hopes, and inspirations. Through the Umunthu circles, case studies were documented and community leaders brainstormed on climate adaptation strategies.



PLAN MALAWI SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKSHOP

With learnings from implementing social inclusion projects and facilitating sensitive topics, the SID team shared these facilitating techniques with seven CSOs from Kasungu district.

UMUNTHU INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES PROJECT FOSTERS INCLUSION

The new developments around the world, with regards to the LGBTI community, have recently sparked conversations in response to protests and repressive laws internationally and Malawi is not spared. Although these emerging issues have the further potential of silencing this key population and efforts to protect their human rights, beneficiaries, and stakeholders in the Umunthu Inclusive Society Project have remained committed to nurturing movements that can take action against human rights violations perpetrated against the LGBTI people. Some of the Champions and members of this community have assumed various leadership roles in their communities as a result of movement-building pieces of training where ArtGlo ignited self-actualization of the power within and strengthened the capacity that each person has to change the status quo.

Primary Justice Actors (PJAs) that we have been engaging with have also shared how their attitude towards the LGBTI people has transformed from refusing to take note of their legal concerns to perceiving them to be as human as anyone else. PJAs are trained players who have committed to play their role to

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

achieve an inclusive social climate for discriminated persons, especially LGBTI people. These include Police Victim Support Unit Officers, Community Policing Officers, Lay Magistrates, and Community and Religious leaders.



"I used to see them as people who are disrupting order in the community and that they cannot meaningfully contribute to development. Even when they bring their disagreements to our offices, used to mock, judge, and attribute any violation they face to the sexual orientation that they chose instead of concentrating on their concern like any other human being."

Narrated a Policeman from Dedza district.

Another policeman testified that he took part in shunning away a gay individual who came to report that he was harassed by some men before he relocated from Lilongwe. The particular person was a well-known sex worker who after some men discovered that they had been sleeping with a fellow man after clubbing, plotted to physically assault him. This LGBTI person sought assistance from the police only to be told that he could not be assisted. The police officers cited that it was beyond their mandate to do so and told him to go to get assistance at a private clinic. The PJA workshops that this policeman attended after moving to Dedza helped him to realize that together with his team, they wrongly handled the matter since every Malawian is entitled to equal access to justice.

On the other hand, the LGBTI people have introduced and revamped networks across Chikwawa to raise awareness and advocate for their rights. This has been portrayed by how other LGBTI network members were conducting their activities whilst some members were attending the follow-up visit that the ArtGlo team had in the district. They further highlighted that they are now able to participate in

decision-making positions like anyone else regardless of their sexual orientation.

"The movement building trainings that I attended have been so beneficial to me and members of LGBTI community networks here in Chikwawa. I am now serving as a Chairlady of Community policing in my village. Other members of our network are serving as Chiefs Counsel, a volunteer teacher at an orphanage, a Church Secretary." Expressed one of the LGBTI people in Chikwawa.

However, there is a common consensus between the LGBTI people in Chikwawa and the PJAs in Dedza who both cited that the protests that the faith leaders were having to influence the courts to determine in their favour, posed a significant threat to their efforts. The latter shared that demonstrations brought confusion among them and threatened their efforts to ensure equitable justice delivery for all including the LGBTI people. There was a greater possibility that the key population whom they also had convergence workshops, would lose their trust in them upon seeing them providing security during the protests.

"Sometimes we receive complaints that discrimination against the LGBTI people is still happening because the workshop did not reach out to everyone in our offices. Our knowledge on how to influence change to our colleagues has hampered the level of depth in the same and often backfires when they cite that the project engaged us and we should be focal persons for the same," a Policewoman from Dedza added.

Nevertheless, ArtGlo also engaged the family and friends of this key population to build an immediate support network for the LGBTI people. These workshops have assisted the immediate relations of the same to understand the plight of their close relatives and friends as well as facilitate bold conversations on how best to support their lives and the war against discrimination due to their sexual orientation.



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

“Upon realizing that I am a member of the LGBTI, my elder brother who provides most of my needs reduced his support. Ever since he attended one of the workshops and heard one of the parents testify, he now constantly checks up on me and has recently bought me a new smartphone upon noting that he has not been on social media after losing one some time back,” Narrated one of the LGBTI persons in Chikwawa.

The convergence workshops that the LGBTI and PJAs have had have assisted in building strategic relationships among them in the fight against human rights violations perpetrated against the former. In Chikwawa, the LGBTI members applauded the peer education approach where police officers orient their colleagues about inclusion. This has further facilitated a common understanding between both the community members and these officers in the course of their work. These strong partnerships have also contributed to reducing the backlog of cases that would have reached the courts since a majority of disagreements are amicably resolved at the police station in Chikwawa.

Meanwhile, the PJA actors recommended that the project should also engage other stakeholders like teachers and school administrators who have absolute powers over their wards. They cited a case that happened at one of the secondary schools in Dedza district where some boys were expelled from school on the allegation that they were promoting homosexuality at the institution. The matter was reported to the police after the decision to expel the said students had already been made and this was too late for them to act on the matter.



Although the PJAs in Dedza recommended that the project should consider reaching out to community members so that community barriers to access jus-

stice are also addressed, Chikwawa district presents a different case. This is because Champions of Inclusion in Chikwawa have been holding community awareness campaigns that involve the use of plays, cultural dances, and experts to address the same.

The Umunthu Inclusive Society project also seeks to raise awareness of the situation of LGBTI people in Malawi by engaging key stakeholders through advocacy art pieces produced by LGBTI people themselves. The two-year long project is funded by the Southern Africa Litigation Center (SALC) and is being implemented in Phalombe, Chikwawa, Dedza & and Mchinji.

IMPACTS

Ownership of Community awareness campaigns:

One PJA in Mchinji took it upon themselves to orient their community members regarding LGBTQ people in between their usual community awareness campaigns. They said, “During some awareness meetings we were also able to address the LGBTIQ issues in between these meetings so people are also aware about this community, the challenges they face, what the law says so as to improve their livelihood.”

Involvement of the ministry of justice representative during champions training:

The representative shared profound insights on the technicalities of inclusion within the justice system. Their involvement in the process, had an immense significance as it motivated the champions to realize that their role in advancing inclusion in their institutions is supported by the ministry.

Establishment of active and responsive district LG-BTQ movements:

With reference to prior experience, the LGBTQ's applauded the Umunthu workshops stating that it made it easy for them to establish movements in their district. “It was so easy for us to come together because we now have a common agenda and that is to deal with any challenges or threats in our community.” Through the network, they were able to research on one sodomy case in Mchinji. Realizing that the image of the LGBTQ community is being tainted by the numerous sodomy cases, they wanted to understand if the perpetrator is indeed an LGBTQ community member so that they take appropriate action. To their surprise, the perpetrator was not an LGBTQ community member and there was nothing they could do. They however, communicated with the whole community to refrain from such acts to avert legal consequences.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

CHALLENGES

The rise in sodomy cases in Mchinji district:

There has been a rise in sodomy cases and the fear is that it might affect the dialogues with the PJA's. As such, the project had to shift Mchinji follow-up to the next quarter because in a span of 2 weeks, there were 2 successive sodomy cases in the district.

Primary Justice Actor's confusion:

They stated that the demonstrations by the religious bodies pushed them off cause. "I was confused," commented one participant. They stated that, they didn't know what to do with the information they got from the workshop knowing very well that they are also law enforcers. One participant continued saying, "We were even at the demonstrations not because we wanted to but because it was our duty to provide security at the demonstrations." This is putting them at a very difficult position to put the knowledge into practice rest their efforts be misinterpreted by their superiors and general public.

WAY FORWARD

We looking forward to:

- Conducting an Impact assessment study engaging LGBTQ community members & LGBTQ led organizations on Jana Gonani's constitutional case
- Implementation of legal empowerment workshops engaging the LGBTQ community members
- Research dissemination & Documentary screening. Those to be engaged will be Blantyre based LGBTQ led organizations including other Human rights activists.
- Engage government officials in dialogues to discuss the implementation of constitutional provisions and policies aimed at protecting the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals.

TESTIMONIES

"I never thought that some people are born without feelings for the opposite sex. I used to think that they all do it for money since it seems to be a foreign behavior. The Umunthu workshop that I attended helped me to understand that some people are indeed born gay, lesbian and transgender." Narrated a female police officer from Dedza.

"I wished 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 Nkanda First Grade Magistrate from Mchinji.

"The information I got helped me to be analytical of our actions as a community. Sometimes we fail to recognize our responsibilities in exercising our rights. I am now well aware and I act accordingly." shared one LGBTQ person in Mchinji.

"Umunthu philosophy is worth embracing. We have been oppressing one another without any remorse. I would wish if the same can be extended to other sectors," expressed one a Police Officer from Phalombe.

"This workshop has helped me to understand my Trans-brother's identity more, the challenges they encounter, and how that affects their well-being. Now I know how I can be a great support system they need," expressed a sister to one of the members of the LGBTI community in Dedza.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Our work on climate and environmental justice is built on the understanding that, “The impacts of climate change will not be borne equally or fairly, between rich and poor, women and men, and older and younger generations.” Climate change is not only an issue of environmental conservation, but also an issue of justice and human rights. The Program remains steadfast in its commitment to mitigate the profound impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. It transcends addressing environmental injustices to action geared towards forging sustainable and equitable solutions that empower key populations at risk from climate adversities.

In 2023 we unearthed the lived experiences of survivors of non economic loss and damage induced by climate change in Zomba and Nsanje districts. This was made possible through participatory arts performances, umunthu circle dialogues and photojournalism. We also hosted educational webinars to address crucial issues of sexual and reproductive health in climate crisis management in Malawi.

REACH

2,244
Beneficiaries

906
Women

569
Girls

330
Boys

295
Men

32
Drama Club
members

30
Umunthu Circle
Participants

20
SRHR Webinar
Participants

19
Photojournalism
Participants

12
VCPC
leaders

10
Group Village
Heads (GVH)

MILESTONES

AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VOICES THROUGH ART

This is a research project aimed at amplifying and documenting the lived experiences of survivors of non-economic loss and damage (NELD) in Zomba and Nsanje Districts. The research relied on communities' definitions of NELD and historical events as a point of reference to understand the occurrence of loss and damage. We found that extreme weather events had a devastating impact on the community, leading to economic and NELD, disrupting human functions, and exacerbating the inequality gap.

Using various participatory methods such as Participatory Rural Communication Appraisal, Theatre for Development, Photojournalism, and Umunthu circle, ArtGlo sought to gain a comprehensive understanding of the research area's contexts. By utilising PRCA strategies such as historical mapping, seasonal calendars, and community resource maps, the study was able to uncover both slow-onset and extreme weather events that had caused economic and NELD in both districts.

Prevailing NELD issues that were found in the two districts include: anxiety, loss of cultural heritage, loss of life, rising illiteracy, trauma, loss of biodiversity, loss of productive land, loss of social ties, child marriages, broken marriages, climate induced migration, loss of dignity, increased cases of GBV and sexual exploitation, moral decay

The communities suggested coping mechanisms such as collective efforts in supporting survivors, emotional support, establishment of women and girls support groups, camp based early childhood and primary education, embracing alternative food and inclusive camps.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Participatory Rural Communication Appraisal and Participatory Arts Performances

Participatory Rural Communication Appraisal was applied as a participatory method to encourage community members to share and reveal their lived experiences on NELD. Participants' lived experiences, beliefs and values were then expressed through a participatory art performance. The study used the Theatre for Development approach to allow participants showcase their main NELD issues revealed through the PRCA activities and promote community dialogue and engagement in coping with loss and damage.



In attendance during each PRCA and TfD Training were 8 community members who were identified to do the TfD performance from targeted GVHs, 2 stakeholders (VCPC and VDC or Police Forum) from a GVHs and ArtGlo facilitators.

Photojournalism

The approach offered participants a hands-on experience in creating meaningful photographic essays, while developing an understanding on how to use photography as a voice. We engaged 10 and 9 young people in Zomba and Nsanje respectively.



Umunthu Circle

The approach provided a platform for survivors with lived experiences to share their fears, anxieties, hopes, and inspirations on NELD. During the three-hour discussion, survivors used hand-drawn pictures to express their anxieties and fears about floods, stormy winds, and heavy rains. This approach helped to deepen their understanding of NELD issues. Survivors then utilized the Umunthu philosophy to identify practical solutions for addressing and preventing existing and future loss and damage. Additionally, the philosophy provided a lens to indepthly discuss about compassion, humanity and mutuality of the interests in identifying NELD issues in the communities.

In Zomba, participants of the Umunthu circles included two survivors and one representative from the VCPCs in each of the five GVHs. CISON ECC, CADECOM, and the Malawi Government's Social Protection Office also participated in an effective dialogue. In Nsanje, ten survivors participated in the discussion, comprising of five males and five females, two VCPC members, and two forum members.



CLIMATE CHANGE WEBINAR

Reproductive health issues often take a back seat in disaster management. While immediate concerns like food, shelter, and water are addressed, the unique needs of women, youth, and the elderly are overlooked. We recognize the urgency of attending to critical reproductive needs during crises and aims to raise awareness on this neglected aspect. In the same vein, we organized a live webinar where subject matter specialists spent their time navigating the interplay between Climate Change and SRHR in Malawi. Dr. Mushomi, from the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP),

During the discussion Dr. Mushomi, from the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and Dr. Tchuwa from the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) shared their practical experiences and theoretical expertise with regard to the topic.

MAMBUNDUNGU COMMUNITY LAMENTS LOSS OF CULTURE

In 2015, villages under GVH Mambundungu in Nsanje district, reached a point where they would not bare any more loss to devastating floods which has been disrupting livelihoods as years pass. The intensity of damage during this fateful year pulled government, local and international organizations to query the traditional leaders of this area whether they maintain their stand not to leave the only place they call home.

"I noticed that my feet were slowly sinking into my rice field as I was transplanting the crop during that afternoon. I immediately decided to run home where I found the whole village submerged in water," explains Sofia Mzungwapezi.

The place where Sofia, 42, a mother of four children, and fellow community members termed good fertile land, was all gone and everyone lost their houses and fields. No single vessel was available to ferry people upland and rescuers found Sofia in a tree at 13:00.

The community nodded to the government's proposal to move them to higher ground after 12 March 2015. They were also permitted to still use their old home for winter cropping and irrigation farming. Nevertheless, life has gotten worse in this new land that they were squeezed into. Their culture is gradually fading away as they no longer do initiation ceremonies for young girls including their local dances.



"We had instruments such as Mulimba, Chikuzile, Chiswayi which were safeguarding our culture as the Sena through music and dance. Now our young girls are entering marriage after they have already lost their virginity and some have had children before marriage, 'a taboo', because they have not undergone initiation ceremonies," laments Mzungwapezi.

She further said that surrounding communities view them as refugees, barely take on board their concerns and advice, and bypass them in area decision-making processes. Sofia stays in her grandparent's house since she is failing to rebuild her temporary house.

VANISHING HERITAGE: CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED LOSS OF SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL SITES

Heavy rains and flooding have become a regular occurrence in recent years in the Chaweza community in Zomba. The once-fertile fields are now waterlogged and unproductive, and the villagers' homes are frequently damaged or destroyed by the deluge. But the effects of climate change on this community go far beyond the loss of crops and property. As the water rises, it is eroding away the very fabric of Chaweza's history.



The local football ground that is 68 years old, is more than just a play field, it is a beacon of hope and potential. It has produced remarkable players who went on to feature in big clubs across the country including Mighty Wanderers, Kamuzu barracks and Nyasa Bullets. Some of the players have also served the nation through the Malawi Nation team. Unfortunately, the belief, the inspiration and the sense of pride that comes with the ground will soon be erased from the face of GVH Chaweza due to climate change.

"This football ground is always a special place for our families, and for the whole community, especially the youths. But now, it's worrisome as the river continues to expand. We might not have a football ground anymore." Said Dave Kalema, a footballer, captain for the village's football club and a lifelong resident.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Kalema's sentiments are shared by many in Chaweza, who feel a deep sense of loss as their village is slowly transformed by the forces of climate change. For them, the football ground is not just a place of recreation and remembrance, but a symbol of their identity and heritage.

"The football ground is part of our history and culture," expresses Victor Mundiwa, who is part of the village's football club that has won 5 football trophies. "If the ground disappears, it's like we're losing a part of ourselves. It also means even the next generation will not have the privilege to use the ground. This ground keeps the youth busy, we do not have time to go drinking, smoking, or stealing as we spend time playing football. This ground has produced big players who are playing for big football clubs in the country and we need to do something to protect it."

On their part, as community members they have plant reeds to prevent the flooding, but it is not helping. They hope that NGOs and government agencies will take notice of their plight and aid in the form of flood prevention measures and infrastructure improvements. For now, the people of Chaweza are doing what they can to cope with the changing climate. They have formed a community group to monitor the floods and help each other in times of need.

But even as they adapt to the new reality, the loss of their historic places remains a bitter pill to swallow. "It's hard to see the football ground disappear," Mundiwa says. "And even if they build another ground it will not have the historic elements that this one has but we have to keep fighting, for ourselves and for the next generation."

As ill luck would have it, the football ground is not the only thing that will be lost in the next two years, the village cemetery that is over 200 years old, where ancestors have been laid to rest for centuries, is now at risk of being washed away by the floods as it is now only 5 meters away from the flooding Phalombe river.

The village headman for the area, Village Head Mwaliwa fears that the loss of the cemetery could have a lasting impact on the community. "The cemetery is the only place where our ancestors are buried," he says. "If it's destroyed, we lose a connection to our past. We won't be able to honor our ancestors or pass on their stories to future generations."

Mwaliwa further narrates that there is nothing that can really be done in this case as the water is too

close to the cemetery now than before.

"We tried to plant reeds and trees the previous rainy season but they are all gone and the water is now just 5 meters away from the cemetery. This is a cemetery that has been there since 1818, and we can even talk about moving it because that is almost impossible. The loss cannot be replaced", he narrated.

Apart from the heritage that is being wiped out due to the floods in the area, there is fear that these people will eventually be displaced if the Phalombe river continues to flood in the next rainy season.

IMPACTS

Psychosocial support and vocational skills:

Due to the rise in anxiety and mental instability cases of victims, a one stop centre was suggested where professional psycho social support will be sought and offered. They were quick to mention that the peer to peer and other social support being offered are nearly enough and does so little in overcoming the anxiety. We are thrilled that this recommendation was taken on bold and has been included in the Second Phase of the project.

Community cultural days:

Loss of cultural identity is another effect that was highlighted both in Zomba and Nsanje. It is lost through socialising with other cultures, migration and other reasons beyond their control. It was suggested that there be cultural days in their communities so that the upcoming generation should get to know, understand and live their identity. This is to sustain their culture so that whether they migrate and socialise with others, they should carry that identity with them. Following from this suggestion, ArtgGlo and CADECOM will jointly organize a Cultural festival in Zomba in first quarter of 2024.

CHALLENGES

- Time for implementation of some of the Art for Climate Change Research activities was not enough. For instance, drama club trainings were done in 3 days which is againsts the minimum of 7 days to produce better results.
- Harsh weather conditions contributed to some delays as some roads were impassable. The implementation team for the research project in Zomba was forced to take longer routes to reach the communities since the project was implemented during the rainy season.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Lack of incentives: drama club members in Nsanje highlighted the need to provide some T-shirts so that they are motivated to remain united as a group in other activities beyond the project. Nevertheless, funds were not allowing for us to provide the same.

WAY FORWARD

We look forward to implementing the second phase of the Arts for Climate Change to address some of the issues we unearthed in 2023. Additionally, the program intends to revamp community led initiatives through Champions of climate change in some of the areas we have worked in.



TESTIMONIES

“Photojournalism allows us to express ourselves and the needs of our community in a meaningful and engaging way.” Shared one of the participants in Zomba.

“There was a certain man in my village who had borrowed money to finance his beans farming that season. When the floods came, his field was submerged in water. Unfortunately, the farmer fainted near his field and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.” narrated one TfD Participant from GVH Mtemangawa in Nsanje.

“It is a very disturbing thought to see that we have no place we can point at to remember our deceased loved ones. Seeing their resting places washed away really worries us.” said one of the photojournalism participants from Chaweza village in Zomba.

“My daughter has dropped out of school because she sees that no one is going to come to help her meet her numerous needs as a secondary school student. Every time she thinks of reaching out to well-wishers, she relives the fate we underwent in 2015.” lamented Mzonda from GVH Mbenje in Nsanje.

“60% of preventable deaths happen during childbirth and 45% of those new births take place in fragile context, affected by climate change crises, extreme heat and climate related events.” said Dr. Mushomi, from the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME



Total income: \$ 212,064.64

EXPENDITURE

1	\$ 131,196.36
2	\$ 47,656.29
3	\$ 20,121.48

- 1 Program expenses
- 2 Personnel expenses
- 3 Admin expenses

SUMMARY

	DOLLARS	MWK
TOTAL INCOME	212,064.64	356,975,454
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	176,213.84	298,626,602
BALANCE	35,850.81	60,348,852

Rate of Exchange

\$ 1 = MWK 1,683.33

OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

On behalf of the men, women, boys and girls that we work with in different communities, we extend a heartfelt vote of thanks to our donors and partners for their unwavering support. Your generous contributions have enabled us to deliver impactful programs and initiatives, which have transformed the lives of many individuals and communities. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment to our mission, and we look forward to working with you to create a brighter future for all.

Thank you!

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://artgloafrica.org/>



Explore some exciting volunteering opportunities here:

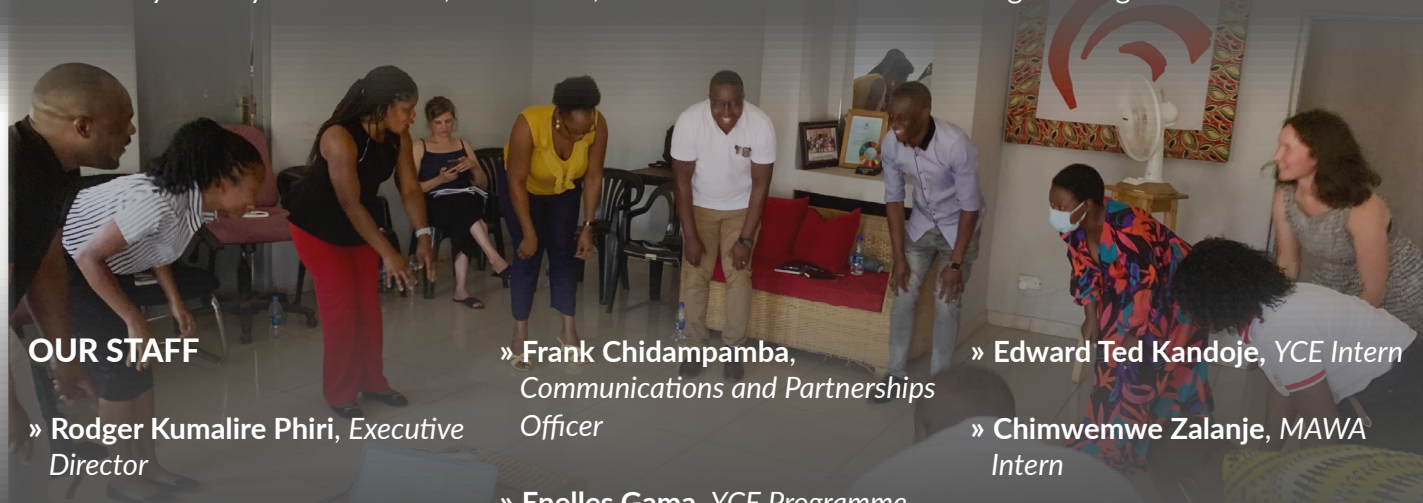
<https://artgloafrica.org/opportunities/>

TO THE ARTGLO TEAM

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your hard work and dedication in 2022. Your passion for creating social change through the arts has been truly inspiring and has had a significant impact on the lives of many individuals and communities. Your tireless efforts have enabled us to achieve our organizational goals and make a positive impact in various areas, including gender equality, education, health, and civic engagement. We recognize that the work we do is challenging and often emotionally taxing, but your commitment to the cause and unwavering support have enabled us to overcome these challenges and continue making a difference.

Your creativity, resilience, and willingness to go above and beyond to achieve our objectives have been invaluable. We appreciate your contributions towards making ArtGlo a dynamic, innovative, and impactful organization. We look forward to continuing our journey together and achieving even greater successes in the future.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to social change through the arts.



OUR STAFF

» **Rodger Kumalire Phiri**, Executive Director

» **Lekodi Magombo**, YCE Programme Manager

» **Sharon Kalima Nkhwazi**, Gender Justice Programme Manager

» **Deliwe Kasakala**, Finance and Operations Manager

» **Chawanangwa Ethan Nyirenda**, Communications and Partnerships Officer

» **Esther Harawa**, Tiyambe Project Officer

» **Chisomo Liwimbi**, SID Programme Officer

» **Caroline Luka**, Mawa Project Assistant

» **Effie Mgala**, Mawa/Tiyambe Project Assistant

» **Frank Chidampamba**, Communications and Partnerships Officer

» **Enelles Gama**, YCE Programme Assistant

» **Precious Phiri**, Finance and Operations Assistant

» **Eva Mihalik**, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Advisor (WUSC)

» **Laura Ligomeka**, SID Programme Support

» **Cynthia Grace Kumbanga**, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Support

» **Florence Simbota**, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Officer

» **Chiyembekezo Noel Kapitapita**, Communications and Partnerships Assistant

» **Andrew Khayako**, YCE Intern

» **Edward Ted Kandoje**, YCE Intern

» **Chimwemwe Zalanje**, MAWA Intern

» **Love Msoso**, Communications Intern

» **Nancy Chisomo Chimbwanya**, YCE Intern

» **James Sande**, Office Assistant

OUR BOARD

» **Galia Boneh**, Board Chairperson

» **David Gere**

» **Isabel Kumwembe**

» **Chimwemwe Fabiano**

» **Yolanda Ngoma**

» **Madalo Banda**

» **Tresor Nzengu Mpauni**

OUR ADVISORS

» **Maryan Taylor Brown**

» **Hayley Kellenberg**

» **Sharida Hassan**

» **Helen Todd**

» **Rodney Likaku**



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Art & Global Health Center Africa
(ArtGlo)
P.O. Box 607,
Kalimbuka, Zomba,
Malawi.

<https://artgloafrica.org/>