

KUFUNGATILA

(Providing Wings of Comfort)

CHIFUNDO OF FAITH
FAITH BASED CHILD



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*NOVOC exists to promote,
assist and empower
individuals and organisations
involved with the care and
support of orphans and
vulnerable children so as to
create and increase services
and thereby improve their
quality of life.*

WELCOME

We have reached the end of another very challenging, but also rewarding year for everyone at NOVOC and all our network members.

The highlights of NOVOC'S achievements in the last half of 2011 are building the capacity of a local NGO Consol Homes in Finance management, establishing Village Savings and Loans Associations in a new impact area: the District of Mzimba, and translating an advocacy toolkit into Chichewa and printing it out as well as distributing it to its network members.

However we cannot assume that the year has been smooth for NOVOC, we met various challenges in implementing our activities ranging from lack of funding to high prices of commodities and lack of fuel in the country that has derailed implementation of projects on time.

Looking ahead, 2012 will present NOVOC with many new challenges, opportunities, more partnerships and collaborative endeavors and much more.

We would like to wish all our partners, funders and supporters, as well as NOVOC staff, Board Members and network members a happy and peaceful year.

We'd like to thank those that added their energy and commitment to our team. Thank you for your support during the past year and we wish you a wonderful and prosperous 2012!



Malawi has over 1,300,000 orphans (UNICEF, 2010) and faces a huge challenge in responding to the increasing number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children. NOVOC needs your assistance in providing care to these children country wide.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

1. VSLAS transforming lives of OVC carers in Malawi

In pursuit of its mission, NOVOC is strengthening CBO/FBO capacities for OVC care and support by improving the quality of life of community level women empowerment initiatives. The organization has trained a number of VSLA facilitators in 10 districts of Malawi to facilitate formation of VSLA groups in their respective areas. These groups are formed with the purpose of building economic growth of OVC caregivers.

When the groups start, the members meet on a weekly basis to purchase shares to build up a pool of funds, then borrow the money on loan which is paid back with an interest of 10% every 4 weeks. The groups also contribute to a Social Fund, which pays out grants for emergencies affecting members, such as medical treatment and funeral costs.

During the quarter of October - December 2011, NOVOC conducted an analysis of the VSLA loans of 50 VSLA groups from 10 CBOs from 5 districts. A report highlighting the percentage of borrowing and repayment of the loans from the VSLAs was developed. Besides the quantitative analysis included in the report are case studies of some beneficiaries who are active members of the groups. The figures have been tabulated in Malawi Kwacha, but they can be converted using a rate of 165 to dollar.

In terms of loan repayment, the overall percentage of defaulters is 1%, however it is 2% and 3% in Salima and Mzimba.



Capacity building officer (NOVOC) takes OVC carers through a session on VSLA, further right is the box that's used for keeping shares.

EDUCATION SUPPORT IN NSANJE



High school OVC receiving mattresses from NOVOC education support officer.

For more information on how to get involved visit NOVOC website (www.novocmalawi.org).

To provide caregivers with an opportunity to access income for meeting basic needs, we need your help.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

2. Selected VSLA success stories in various districts

A number of success stories are being registered in Salima district on the lives of OVC household members, in comparison with their lives before VSLA and their lives now, after VSLA. Some of the stories include:

- ➔ OVC care gives now being able to generate profits from sale of petty items in business, for instance:
- ➔ Mrs. Estere Enock (38 years) from Salima-Chisomo CBO is married and is taking care of 6 children. Through VSLA she has bought a bicycle, a radio cassette, two bags of fertilizer and solar system for electrifying her house.

Besides these things Mrs. Ester and her family managed to harvest 36 bags of maize last season which they still have. This means that they are food secure as compared to the time before she joined the VSLA.

And according to the wealth ranking of the district she is in the rich category of the community, because according to her own words, they have an iron roofed house, more than 5 goats, chickens, they eat 3 meals per day; and harvested 36 bags of maize of 50 Kgs last year.



IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

➔ Alibeta Foster (30 years) is a widow who is taking care of three children. Through the VSLA, she managed to buy two bags of fertilizer. In addition she bought two goats and has been able to take care of her daily household basic needs.



Alibeta Foster very happy

3. Education support in Nsanje

This project has continued to bring happiness and life to the Orphans and Vulnerable children in the District of Nsanje. During the last quarter a forensic audit was carried out in Nsanje by funders the Chello Foundation and they could not hide their joy at the success the program has been to the lives of the poor ones in that district.

The children who have continued receiving the education support are 289. Very few cases of dropouts have been reported. However in one of the monitoring report it was reported that for these children to receive quality education their other basic needs have to be taken care of since they belong to the most ultra poor group in Malawi.

It is on this note that it was resolved that they will be provided with bedding, shoes and personal hygiene effects.

NOVOC has gone further, encouraging these household carers to become members of VSLAs in that District so that they can be empowered economically and hence be in a position to take care of their children and the OVC and in that case reduce the gap between the children who are receiving the Chello support and their other children. Once households are economically empowered they will be in a position to ensure that the holistic development of these children is taken care of.



High school OVC receiving mattresses from NOVOC education support officer

OUR PARTNERS

→ Stop Aids Now! (SAN) and NOVOC are partnering in a Psychosocial Support project that seeks to scale up Psychosocial Support Services for OVC in Malawi through Linking and Learning. SAN through NOVOC is also strengthening the Social Cash Transfer Scheme (SCT) in Chitipa district. A whole new project that tries to strengthen the Social Cash Transfer Scheme in Malawi. The project is implemented hand-in-hand with district and national government, the implementers of the SCT scheme.

→ The Chello Foundation works with partners in Africa to ensure that orphans and vulnerable children get an education. Currently they work in five African nations – Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and South Africa. In Malawi they support more than 289 children at primary, secondary and at polytechnic level with fees and materials as appropriate.

→ Cordaid and NOVOC from 2009-2012 has been implementing a project on women empowerment to support OVCs in Malawi.

→ Raising Malawi Trust: NOVOC with financial support from Raising Trust is implementing a Strengthening CBO/FBOs Capacity for OVC care and support. The overall goal of this project is to improve the quality of life of 4,000 OVC through strengthening community level initiatives by 2011.

→ Unicef and NOVOC developed a project on strengthening the capacity of service providers in rolling out the Journey of Life to improve psychosocial support projects.

→ Oxfam: Joint Oxfam Programme in Malawi and NOVOC want to achieve improved sustainable livelihoods for poor and vulnerable groups in the context of HIV/AIDS by 2011. They have been supporting the NOVOC advocacy project on increased access to quality education by OVCs.

→ World Vision entered in an agreement with NOVOC to carry out a three-year project from 2009 to March 2011 on increased capacity of stakeholders (CBO, FBOs, NGOs and government) to effectively provide holistic care (psychosocial support, care and protection) to orphans and vulnerable children.

→ Volunteer Service Organization Overseas: VSO and NOVOC from 2009 to 2010 have been implementing a project on women's empowerment to support OVCs in Malawi.

JOIN US

ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP

NOVOC offers the opportunities to interested people and institutions to register as members of the organization and participate in the noble cause of ensuring that the rights and welfare of children are upheld.

Membership fee:

International	MWK 10,000
Local	MWK 5,000
CBO	MWK 2,000

Fill in the membership form and send it to NOVOC Malawi together with your subscription fee as per the type of membership applied for.

Let us come together in the advocacy for child rights and welfare for betterment of the future of our children.

Join us by registering as a member!

www.novocmalawi.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

➔ Liz Dobson a VSO Volunteer joined the NOVOC fraternity as a grant writer in October 2011.

➔ Joyce Somba the finance manager left the fraternity in October 2011 we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



CONTACT US

NOVOC

PO Box 1266
Lilongwe
Malawi, Central Africa

Phone

+ 265 1 920 013
or + 265 99 9252720
(National Coordinator)

Email

info@novocmalawi.org

Web

www.novocmalawi.org

Newsletter Design

Vuong Tong and Daniela Kriva

