



# CHILDCARE REPORT



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## Content

1. ABSTRACT .....	3
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Benefit of childcare program to Misanjo community .....	4
I. There is increasing number of enrollment and decrease number of early marriages.....	4
II. Community development .....	5
III. Students are getting school support .....	6
IV. Providing basic need to special needs students .....	8
V. Reduction of sexual transmitted diseases.....	9
4. Challenges .....	9
a. Fees /prices fluctuation .....	9
b. Delays of funds .....	9
c. Food insecurity .....	9
5. Recommendation .....	10
6. Conclusion .....	10

## 1. ABSTRACT

CHILDCARE is a wing from Hope for Misanjo. It was established in 2016 with the help of FROMO. This part was established with a purpose of encouraging youths from Misanjo community and surrounding villages to get education. CHILDCARE is serving a lot of children in our area since 2016. The main goal of this program is to improve the lives of young people and encourage them to go back to school and get educated. Since start of this program CHILDCARE has been sponsoring over 100 needy students in Misanjo community and surrounding communities. This is wonderful.

All in all these students benefit a lot. They receive items like bags, exercise books, school uniforms, school shoes, writing materials. These items are given at the beginning of each and every term. In fact the CHILDCARE program is acting as a savior. Our community sees a lot of benefits: increase of enrolment in schools, eradication of early marriage, closing the gap between secondary and university as eight university students are receiving loans from FROMO. The program is encouraging gender equity as it makes sure there is balance between males and females.

In fact the program is saving this community. However there are little challenges that CHILDCARE is facing. Some of the challenges are as follows: The program has less capacity to involve the many needy students in this community because FROMO is a small organization. Many children would be ready to go to school again with the start of a CHILDCARE program.

- The program is not able to support those students who are selected to the best schools.
- FROMO cannot bear the high costs of expensive boarding schools
- Lack of food support when hunger hits some of beneficiaries homes.

Lastly, our community is expecting a lot from this program as it sees some students getting MSCE paper while primary students are selected to better and more expensive secondary schools. Students are encouraged to go back to school or work hard through provision of school necessities. At the moment four students get the chance of studying in various colleges and 4 are studying at universities. CHILDCARE has been able to support these students with loans given by FROMO.

## 2. Introduction

CHILDCARE is a program that started in 2016 by initiatives from FROMO and it is under the organization Hope for Misanjo. The CHILDCARE program aims at alleviating the problems of our poor students. Since 2016 the CHILDCARE program has been supporting over 200 students in total. CHILDCARE is supporting needy and intelligent students starting from primary school up to secondary school. Since 2020 CHILDCARE is now also helping needy and deserving students who got the chance to study at different colleges and universities. CHILDCARE is not looking only at school necessities but it considers all challenges that the students are facing. This makes this program to be unique, in spite of the fact that FROMO is as small organization. The needy students have been supported with clothes and food. Some of the poorest families have been offered new houses and some maintenance. It is also vital as these are external forces that our students in need face and that affect their performance in the classroom. For example, going to school on with empty stomach affects students and school performance. The students can no longer concentrate on the ongoing lessons. So this program has also indirect advantages on our community. The number of early marriages is now decreasing, since one of factors that enforce young people into early marriages is not the problem for supported children. Since a lot of families are very poor, they cannot afford to support their children. So coming of this program is making the HfM communities happier. The problems this community has faced are decreasing now. Below are some benefits in detail that this community is getting through the childcare program:

There is an increasing number of enrolment and decrease number of early marriages

As you may see photo below, the first photo is showing Shamimu Khanenda receiving her groceries at Ekhamunu Centre and the second photo is showing Shamimu carrying her daughter.

Shamimu got early married because there was no support and then FROMO considered the condition of Khanenda family who is a child headed family. These children lost their mother and



Shamimu Khanenda

their father. Then Shamimu as the eldest child among her brothers and sisters was the responsible leader in this family. She dropped out of school and began looking for piece work in other people`s homes in order to support her brother and sisters. Most of times she used to wash other people`s clothes in order to earn a living and to support her brothers and sisters. The coming of this program has supported these children and they started going back to school. This program also motivates children to go back to school and this resulted in increasing numbers of enrolment in this area. This is the proof that a lot of youth are getting married because of the challenge they are facing. This is the case in our community. However these marriages do not yield any fruitful results. They only result into population explosion in Malawi.

## I. Community development

The goodness of this program is that it considers all challenges needy and deserving students are facing. In addition to school support, it also considers external factors that could result in these students` failing in class. For instance a student cannot concentrate much when she or he attends class with an empty stomach. This is common here, so childcare sometimes buys food



Tadala, Ireen, Breander, their grandmother, Wilson and Blessings ( from left to right)



At the Back; Ireen and Tadala. In the front; Breander and Blessing

for these students when they face hunger. On photo you may see Wilson and the Nkanda family that receives food support. This family is also a child-headed family. They lost both parents. Their mother left the two little children on the photos, Blessings and Breander, before their first birthday. Their old grandmother as you may see on photo was feeding Blessings and Breander with sweet beer

(Thobwa). It was a blessing that you came in time and took over responsibility and FROMO has supported these little children with Soya flour to be fed instead of sweet beer. They have started eating solid food. The good news is that they have now started attending nursery. This is unbelievable and opposite of what people were expecting from this family. As you may see on the second photo, they now live a happy life. This is the reason because a female German donor solved their problems through CHILDCARE. Hope for Misanjo is bringing really hope to this community. So this program is bringing really development and it's changing the lives of people in Misanjo community and surrounding communities.

Apart from offering food support, some of the families in this community have received new

houses. Since 2016, CHILDCARE with the help of FROMO has offered four people, preferably children families, new houses and maintenance. New houses were built for the following families:

1. the **Mpangi family**, which is a children family,
2. the **Khanenda family**, which is also a children family,
3. the **Funali family**, which is run by a widowed mother with a daughter and a son,
4. and **Anne Boni**, also looked after their home that year.

Indeed, these families lived miserable lives. For example, the Khanenda family slept in the kitchen of other people. The situation was critical and many thanks to our donors who agreed to build a large and new house for them. The same happened to the Mpangi family. This family has an older brother named Alex who dropped out of school and looked for a job to survive. Children from this family wore ragged clothes and mostly had no food at all. However, their problem was alleviated by this program, as FROMO built a new house for them, provided food and clothes. All children have been back to school since then.

The other family to receive a house is the Funali family. This family slept in a thatched house that leaked when it rained. Usually their things got wet during the rainy season.

The core of this program is to assist students with school support. The deserving needy students are benefitting much from this program. Through this program, students are receiving groceries like soap, lotions, exercise books, writing materials, calculators, school bags, clothes, blankets and pocket money. Among other things, for secondary student are receiving school fees on top of all these basic needs. fees on top of all these basic needs.



Godfrey receiving his groceries



Breander and Blessing



Huswell Mbengwa



Huswell Mbengwa receiving pocket money

Last year, CHILDCARE with the help of FROMO extended its department to supporting also needy and intelligent young people who go to university. Beneficiaries of this program are Apatsa Richard Mulira, Leonard Mission, Mazunzo Banda, Colleta Lusumani, Dan Andy, Gift Kalepa and Isaac Makina. For these students we pay 5400€ per year. In first place there was gap since CHILDCARE was only supporting students from primary and secondary schools. Through this loan program we now support young people from kindergarten till the end of their education, even up to higher education levels. Above photos show how beneficiaries are receiving loan.

## II. Providing basic need to special needy students

Childcare is a unique organization that does not show an element of segregation. This is shown by supporting children or students with disabilities. One of special needs is Brandina Lipenga. This child is passionate if she has a problem of wheel chair but she tries not to be absent from school. She has a friend named Agnes Daison who used to push her to school on her old wheel chair. Most of much community people don't like this kind of children people do not like to be associated with or help them but you have good heart and unlimited love since your support includes also such kind of children. Brandina is being helped in many ways. For instance sometimes she is provided with food. In addition to this, she is also provided with school groceries.



Brandina and Agnes



Brandina Lipenga on her old wheel chair



### III. Reduction of sexual transmitted diseases

CHILDCARE is on the **front line to defend rights of females** through providing basic needs. A lot of females are suffering sexual harassment due to lack of school necessities. A lot of men are finding an advantage to have sex with young girls. They promise them with the provision of all school necessities. This resulted into sexual transmitted diseases which is a loss to future community. Most of them end up getting into marriages with these sugar daddies which bring fear to our communities. This will end up in population explosion. So CHILDCARE is giving back all the rights to these young girls and give them strong points of saying no to sex with these bad men. We provide them with all basic needs without asking anything of them. This is really wonderful. In addition to that it encourages most of the girls who once dropped out of school and entered into marriages while they are too young. Most of these young marriages don't function. We give them the chance to go back to school.

#### Challenges

##### a. Fees /prices fluctuation

The first problem we are facing frequently are changes of school fees. In fact school fees are not stable. Sometimes it changes within a year while we have already submitted our budgets. Apart from fees, prices of items we buy for our students use to fluctuate as well. The thing is that we cannot predict such changes as results this leaves us in panic situation.

##### b. Delays of funds

The second challenge we are facing yearly is delaying of funds by FROMO. This has got direct impact on performance of our needy deserving students. This usually occurs in a situation where students have given few days holiday for instance two weeks holiday and within these two weeks we supposed to send you everything before opening dates. So most of times we end up not catch up with the time because of lot of work that has to be done. The other factor for the delay was the problem with Wilson since he is also a student and sometimes this situation finds him when he was preparing his examination so it was difficult for Wilson to do both things at once.

##### c. Food insecurity

There are some students who are coming from extremely poor families and every year during months between September and February these families end up into panic situation where they don't have food at home. This critical times have got direct influence on concerned students since they sleep with an empty stomach and cannot manage to attend classes.

## Recommendation

Looking at some challenges CHILDCARE is facing, I have got few suggestion as follows:

The budget that used to be submitted at the beginning of year should not be seen as a guarantee. You think that costs will be static but most of times we face some fluctuation and my request is that you may understand us in such situations.

For the challenges that delays bring with them, my suggestion is: Understand the situation we are in. Some problems result from the school, not from Wilson, the responsible partner of FROMO. I ask the schools to send us the most needed documents such as the school progress report and other documents. FROMO should allow us to submit some documents over time. The other thing is that Wilson is now finishing his studies and I think this problem will end as I will plan and carry out every single work on time.

For food problems I suggest that you may recommend us to identify these students so that they need to be supported with food.

## 3. Conclusion

Lastly, I would like to say thank you for all support you are rendering to us. It is not easy for supporting all of us and we don't take this for granted. We always wish you strong, healthy and successful life. In fact you are all shining examples. All the 10 villages that belong to HfM are benefitting a lot. For instance without this program and without you being there for us students like Wilson, he could not be able to get his degree. Students like Ester Kudzinja, Jimmy Elias, Loveness Benfort, Felesta Alufeyo just to mention a few could not be able to get their MSCE or finish form four. And some students like Leonard Mission, Isaac Makina, Mazunzo Banda and Gift Kalepa just to mention a few could not be able get chance of studying at college and university. Some lucky families got new built houses like the Funali family, the Khanenda family and other families. The CHILDCARE program is really a blessing to the 10 HfM villages.