

The image features a graphic design on the left side with a white rectangular box containing text. The background of the entire image is a photograph of two young children sitting at a table against a brick wall. The graphic includes a teal semi-circle with white dashes, a red semi-circle, a yellow sunburst, and a blue triangle with a red dotted pattern. The text is in a bold, dark blue font.

YAMBA  MALAWI

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the impact the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program had in 2019, we are filled with gratitude for the dedication of our partner communities, team, and amazing family of supporters. The first months of 2020 have introduced unprecedented global challenges, and Malawi has not been immune to their effects. Nevertheless, our partner communities are persevering, and our team is continuing our goal of ending childhood poverty in Malawi.

We know that none of this would be possible without you and the partnerships, growth, and support we have seen over the past year.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ENSURE OUR IMPORTANT WORK CAN CONTINUE.

As a child-focused poverty graduation program, our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program is building new beginnings for Malawi's most vulnerable children, and lasting change for their communities. Our collective impact in 2019 has been transformative, and we are incredibly grateful for the partnerships and relationships we have built along the way.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- We are thrilled to partner with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, whose support and expertise will help us better serve children under five years of age, when they are most vulnerable to the effects of extreme poverty.
- We continued partnerships with six Community Based Organizations, helping them build financial resilience, establish community financial services, and most importantly, improve vulnerable children's access to quality Early Childhood Development care, nutrition programs, and critical social services like healthcare and child protection.
- We added 250 households to our programs in Traditional Authority Kalolo, and supported a total of over 600 households as they utilized business, financial services, and knowledge to have deep impacts on their children's lives.
- We supported all of our communities on the path to sustainability, with increased confidence building, business training, financial management mentorship, and reinforced mentorship on how





these activities can improve childhood development outcomes in the short- and long-terms.

- We made significant strides in diversifying our funding, raised an incredible \$1 million at Gala for Good, and began plans for future growth and scale.

IN SHORT, OUR CHILD-FOCUSED POVERTY GRADUATION PROGRAM IS WORKING. BECAUSE OF YOU, OVER 36,000 CHILDREN ARE NOW GETTING THE NURTURING, PROTECTIVE CARE THEY NEED.

We are thrilled with the progress our communities have made, but there is still more work to be done. Across the country, communities continue to struggle with food security, the impacts of climate change, and strained safety nets. Children are facing multifaceted challenges that hinder their very ability to survive and thrive. The situation is serious, but there is hope. Communities are motivated to break the cycle of poverty, so they can give the youngest generation the happy, healthy childhoods they deserve.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS WE WILL REACH AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 CHILDREN.

To build towards our ultimate goal of ending childhood poverty in Malawi, in 2019, we outlined a three-year strategic plan that will serve as a path for us to more than double our impact by 2022. Through conversations with our partner communities, experts in both the poverty graduation and Early Childhood Development sectors, and government agencies, we continued to refine our model to include innovations that will help us better integrate household- and community-level programming, empower caregivers through confidence building and sustainability planning, and critically, better reach children under five years of age, when growth and development plays a particularly critical role in establishing long-term health and wellbeing.

From all of us at Yamba Malawi, thank you. None of this would be possible without our amazing community of supporters, including donors, our Board, community leadership, government partners, and all of you.

ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI—a warm Malawian thank you,

Peter Twyman
Executive Director

Melissa Kushner
Founder & Board Chair



OUR MISSION + VISION

Yamba Malawi uplifts vulnerable children by empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty. Our vision is a world where strong, resilient communities build brighter futures for children.





**IN MALAWI, MILLIONS OF CHILDREN STRUGGLE WITH
THEIR MOST BASIC NEEDS AND RIGHTS.**

In Malawi, 84% of children are living on less than \$0.50 per day, faced with multifaceted challenges that are deeply rooted in extreme poverty. Caregivers are doing what they can to care for their children, but limited opportunities and safety net services hinder children's ability to reach their full potential. The resulting injustice goes well beyond financial instability, impacting children's food security, education, health, and safety.

THE EFFECTS CAN LAST A LIFETIME.

As a child-focused poverty graduation program, our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program empowers communities on a pathway out of poverty and ensures Malawi's most vulnerable children have the nurturing, protective care they deserve. By utilizing holistic, integrated programs at both the household and community levels, our interventions have both deep and wide impacts that enable children's immediate and long-term needs to be met.

**IN 2019, THE CHILDHOODS & LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM
IMPACTED THE LIVES OF OVER 36,000 CHILDREN.**



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

As a child-focused poverty graduation program, the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program uses three core pillars—Childhood Wellbeing, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Inclusion—to strengthen community safety nets, increase the knowledge and capabilities of caregivers, and build more resilient economic environments, so communities can move children out of extreme poverty and improve childhood outcomes across nutrition and food security, education, health, water, sanitation, housing, and protection.

*A note to our loyal supporters: You may notice a change from previous years in the number of children impacted by our programs. We're glad you did! In 2019, we invested in our Monitoring & Evaluation, and have reevaluated how we are tracking impact on children. Now, our focus on deep, sustained impact is reflected in how we are measuring our impact on children's lives.



36,555

Children Impacted



600+

Businesses Operating



10,000+

Hours of Caregiver
Training



58

Village Savings and
Loans Established



6x

Average Farmer
Income Increased



161

Community Trainings on
Childhood Wellbeing, Business,
and Financial Inclusion



49

Community Based
Childcare Centers
Strengthened

HOW IT WORKS



CHILDHOOD WELLBEING

Addresses children's holistic needs, especially those in their early years, so they get the care they need. Provides caregiver training, one-on-one coaching, and links to social services around the seven dimensions of vulnerability identified by the Malawian government: nutrition and food security, education, health, water, sanitation, housing, and protection.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Generates ongoing profits to be spent on children. Empowers caregivers with seed capital and entrepreneurship training, so they can launch their own sustainable businesses, diversify their source of income, boost the local economy, and break the cycle of poverty for good.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Stabilizes finances and provides critical links to savings and credit, so caregivers can plan for children's immediate and long-term needs. Maximizes the impact of profits through coaching on key areas of financial inclusion and budgeting, links to services, and the establishment of local Village Savings and Loans.

THROUGH THESE EFFORTS, YAMBA MALAWI IMPACTED THE LIVES OF OVER 36,000 CHILDREN IN 2019.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

As a holistic child-focused poverty graduation program, the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program adopts a multifaceted, thoughtful approach to programmatic design and strategy. The following are just a few thematic areas our team considers when working with our partner communities.

ZERO TO FIVE: THE CRITICAL CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT YEARS

Childhood wellbeing is at the core of everything we do, and the support children receive in their early years is critical for establishing a strong foundation for growth and development. The Childhoods & Livelihoods Program supports both household and community caregivers as they provide children, particularly those under five years of age, the nurturing care they deserve. We ensure that the care is adapted for children's age and unique needs, utilizes locally-relevant resources and practices, and ensures a comprehensive, holistic approach to their development. In 2019, there were 665 training sessions and 1,182 home visits conducted for the nearly 600 household-level caregivers on the topics of childhood health and wellbeing, life skills training, and financial literacy. In addition, Yamba Malawi supported 49 Community Based Childcare Centers and six Community Based Organizations to strengthen the quality of support they provide children and caregivers—from prenatal healthcare support to nursery school, feeding programs to secondary school scholarships. Through these interventions we reached over 36,000 children.

WOMEN INVESTING IN THEIR FAMILIES

In Malawi, women typically hold the prime responsibility of caring for children, managing the household, and ensuring the family's needs are met. However, they often lack opportunities to earn money, manage finances, and make key decisions in the home. Yamba Malawi addresses these issues directly by uplifting women leaders and providing them the support they need to earn money, save money, and invest it in their children. The impact can be transformative. Studies show that women reinvest 90% of their income in their families, which translates into life-changing support for children in need. We make certain that over 50% of all caregivers in the program are women and design interventions to ensure their success. We also sensitize male partners of women enrolled in the program and men who are enrolled on the importance of gender equity in the community and household. As a result, communities challenge gender norms, build supportive, inclusive networks of support, and ultimately increase the sustainability of the program's impact on children.

JOB CREATION & ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN

The underlying causes of childhood vulnerability are deeply rooted in extreme poverty. Communities struggle within a cycle of limited opportunity, strained safety nets, external shocks, and low self-confidence in one's ability to create change. The result can be incredibly detrimental to children's lives, especially in their early years. By pairing sustainable livelihoods with mentorship and confidence-building activities, Yamba Malawi empowers caregivers to be changemakers, giving them the boost they need to break the cycle of poverty and invest in their children. The Childhoods & Livelihoods Program helps communities use earnings to address immediate needs, all while enabling them to plan for the future. The result is more income, savings, and investment in children's futures. For example, in 2019, nearly 95% of caregivers participated in a Village Savings and Loan, most of whom were saving for the first time. This money is now being used for children's key needs. For example, in Chiseka, farmers reported spending around 55% of their income on children's education, around 25% on food and nutrition, and nearly 10% on improvements to children's safety and protection, such as safe housing.



MEET THE **BANDA FAMILY**

A FAMILY WORKING HARD TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Seven-year-old Hannah and two-year-old Henry live with their parents, Sheldrick and Doris Banda, in Traditional Authority Chiseka, a rural area in Central Malawi.

In Chiseka, most households depend on rain-fed agriculture to support their families, and the Bandas are no different. Erratic rains over the past few years have meant vast challenges for the family, and they often struggled with enough food for the year. These challenges have caused a difficult cycle for the family. The lack of adequate food forced Sheldrick and Doris to seek labor on neighboring farms, and the meager wage they earned barely met their family's needs. With all income being spent on food, Sheldrick and Doris were unable to buy the farming tools, fertilizer, and seeds that could provide their family the boost they needed. As a result, little was left to spend on critical needs like healthcare, education, and safe housing for Hannah and Henry.

Today, the Bandas have changed all of this.

Through the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, the Bandas gained access to inputs like fertilizers and seeds, and Sheldrick learned critical new farming techniques that have nearly doubled their harvest. Sheldrick describes, "I have learned how to double plant so I can maximize yield. I have learned about the importance of using certified seeds, so we can grow more on the same land."

Now a lead farmer, Sheldrick has become a community leader who is sharing his learnings to those within the program and beyond. “As lead farmer, I help my group by checking on them as they plan,” he shared, “I help them with collecting and selling their harvest and help address any pests or disease.”

Importantly, the Bandas are also receiving training, coaching, and links to services that help them maximize the impact these new opportunities have on their young children’s lives. Sheldrick explains, “We are learning new skills so we know how to use this money to help our children and save for the future. This program helps us with a new beginning.” For the Bandas, this means preparing a budget and saving for the first time, planning for the future, and diversifying their incomes so they can build resilience and weather challenges along the way.

For example, in 2019, the Bandas saved a portion of their soybean and groundnut incomes to invest in off-season irrigation farming of potatoes. Now, they have multiple, diverse sources of income that help them further invest in their children. Most recently, they not only had food for the entire year, but also purchased iron sheet roofing. With increased nutrition and this significant improvement from their thatched roof, Hannah and Henry are now much safer from common childhood threats like pneumonia and other preventable illnesses that put many children in Malawi at risk.

“I am very grateful to be part of a program that operates like this. Training, supplies, they all help us change our lives, and I have seen improvements for our children,” Sheldrick shares. “My dream is to see my children attend school.” And most importantly, he shares, “I want them to have a good future.”

Looking for more? Watch the story of another farming family, the Basikolos, here: vimeo.com/yambamalawi/abambo



AT A GLANCE: THE CHISEKA PROJECT 3,480 CHILDREN IMPACTED

About the Community Chiseka is a large district in need that has been a Yamba Malawi partner for many years. Today, Yamba Malawi partners with Ufulu Community Based Organization and the broader Chiseka area to launch programs that leverage incomes from many types of business, such as poultry, honey, and soybeans and groundnut farms, as a way to invest in critical services for children.

What Makes This Project Special Launched in 2017, the Chiseka Project is the pilot program for our household-level Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, a child-focused poverty graduation program that empowers vulnerable communities on a pathway out of poverty. Our close relationship and rapport with the community has allowed for critical feedback, input, and subsequent iterations that is helping us constantly innovate and respond to the needs of our partner communities.



MEET

ERNESTO, LETICIA + THEIR MOTHER ESTHER

AN INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN'S EARLY YEARS

Five-year-old Ernesto and nine-month-old Leticia live with their parents near Tiyembenawo Community Based Organization. Growing up in rural Malawi, Ernesto and Leticia have faced many challenges. Their family has just two acres of land to grow all their food for a year, the family struggled to afford farming inputs like seeds and fertilizer, and their mother Esther has faced challenges from a pre-existing arm injury that makes harvesting difficult. Hunger has been a constant challenge for the family, and Ernesto and Leticia have struggled to get the nutrition they need for critical early childhood growth and development.

Now, Ernesto and Leticia are on a different path.

Ernesto and Leticia's family, and particularly their mother Esther, is deeply motivated to break the cycle of poverty so her children can have happy, healthy childhoods. In 2019, Esther enrolled in Yamba Malawi's Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, and she is now utilizing her skills and knowledge to launch a beekeeping business, open her family's first savings account, and use her training and mentorship to better provide for her children.

Thanks to referrals to critical services and one-on-one coaching in childhood wellbeing, Esther has deepened her understanding around giving her children a healthy start. "I learned how to be more alert about hygiene, like taking care when they play in the dirt," she mentioned. "I also learned how important it is to work, so I can pay for education and how the Community Based Childcare Center can help. This has been so helpful! I'm thinking of everything now—from boiling water to storing food and water properly so my children do not get sick."

With this new knowledge, the family's new honey business income is being put to good use. As a more passive business, Esther avoids some of the challenges she faced with farming and has more time to spend with her children, all while building her household's financial stability. With income earned from her last harvest, Esther purchased Ernesto and Leticia maize for porridge, new clothes, and a uniform so Ernesto could go to school. They have started saving in a Village Savings and Loan, which is opening new doors for the family. "Being part of the Village Savings Loan is a great experience," Esther shares. "We are able to borrow from each other. We took out a loan and bought soap and other items we



needed.” Esther has grown her business to include three hives and joined the community honey collective, which helps her market her product. She plans to buy school uniforms, clothes, and fertilizer for the field.

At the end of the day, Esther’s vision for Ernesto and Leticia is simple: “I want to see my children be happy. Yes, they can go to school and grow, but my main goal is for them to be happy.” Now, through Esther’s hard work in the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program, that dream is becoming a reality.

Looking for more? Watch the story of two other beekeeping families, the Sithawikas and the Jacksons, here: vimeo.com/yambamalawi/shine and vimeo.com/yambamalawi/harold



AT A GLANCE: THE TIYAMBENAWO PROGRAM 1,290 CHILDREN IMPACTED

About the Community Tiyambenawo CBO was founded by a group of local women who were determined to support the needs of orphans and vulnerable children in their community. Their name, which roughly translates to “Let us begin together,” shares a common root to Yamba Malawi’s own name—“yamba,” which means to “begin.”

What Makes This Project Special This project is the first integration of community- and household-level programming, and features beekeeping as less physically-intensive livelihood. Tiyambanawo’s 120 beehives generate income for 50 households as well as community activities like Early Childhood Development and feeding programs that reach over 1,000 children under five years of age. The project includes the protection and conservation of a local forest as well as the planting of a community-accessible fruit orchard and shade trees for vulnerable households.



MEET

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY KALOLO

**A COMMUNITY PROVIDING DEEP
AND WIDE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN**

In Traditional Authority Kalolo, the community is coming together to build supportive environments where children of all ages can thrive.

Yamba Malawi first began a partnership with Traditional Authority Kalolo in 2014 with the launch of a community-level layer poultry business at Nyanja Community Based Organization. Through community efforts, Nyanja has produced a remarkable 248,242 eggs that have been sold in local markets to generate profits that can support children's needs. As a result, the community is infusing resources in children's support services, such as 20 Community Based Childcare Centers that provide children under five years old Early Childhood Development services and nutritious food, providing hundreds of students with secondary school scholarships, and ensuring children suffering from loss receive psychosocial support, among other critical services for children. In 2019, these activities reached 1,200 children, and the community impact is growing each year.

In 2019, Yamba Malawi's partnership with Traditional Authority Kalolo expanded with the enrollment of 250 households in our Childhoods & Livelihoods Program. These families are now on the path to having a deep, long-term impact on their children's lives—they are launching soybean and groundnut businesses, opening their first savings accounts, and accessing services, coaching, and training that

is improving their children's lives. As a result, an additional 885 children are now on the pathway out of poverty.

Since the 2019 expansion, Yamba Malawi is proud to see the steps caregivers have taken to build an ecosystem of support that bridges childcare provided at the household and community levels. For example, in fall of 2019, Traditional Authority Kalolo established a child-focused taskforce of 133 members that represents 20 Community Based Childcare Centers that serve over 7,582 children. This taskforce integrates key learnings from curricula across our three program pillars —Childhood Wellbeing, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Inclusion—and shares them across the community through large-scale events, the strengthening of existing service providers, and home visits with community members in need, whether they are formally enrolled in the Childhoods & Livelihoods Program or not. In addition, household caregivers enrolled in the program identified under-resourced Community Based Childcare Centers, partnered with them to establish “demonstration farming plots” that help them learn skills for their own businesses while simultaneously producing critical food for the Community Based Childcare Center children. As a result, children enrolled in both the household program and children in the broader community are now benefiting from expanded support across key areas of vulnerability, including food, education, health, protection, and more.

Looking for more? Watch the story of nearby community, Ufulu Community Based Organization, here: vimeo.com/yambamalawi/helena



AT A GLANCE: KALOLO COMMUNITY 7,582 CHILDREN IMPACTED

About the Community The Kalolo Community is well-known for their inclusive approach to community development. In addition to being a woman-led Community Based Organization, the leadership has actively appointed individuals living with disability into leadership positions, and regularly holds community events about inclusion.

What Makes This Project Special Kalolo Community incorporates a number of key learnings from Yamba Malawi's Childhoods & Livelihoods Program pilot: 1) The expansion into dual community- and household-level programming, 2) The prioritization of reaching children under five years of age for Early Childhood Development services, and 3) The establishment of a child-focused taskforce is an important iteration of our pilot program. Using lessons and community feedback from the first years of our pilot, the taskforce's 133 members represent 20 different CBCCs as they strengthen the impact on children, improve community accountability and ownership, and serve as a critical support system and confidence builder for program participants.

SPOTLIGHT ON ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH



ADDING EXPERTISE TO OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS

We were excited to welcome Gertrude Kabwazi to the Yamba Malawi team as Country Director in July 2019. With advanced degrees in women's law, education, and development, as well as her extensive work in community development, education, and children's services, Gertrude is uniquely positioned to lead Yamba Malawi's holistic approach to uplifting vulnerable children by breaking the cycle of poverty.



REACHING MAJOR FUNDRAISING MILESTONES

In 2019, we reached major fundraising milestones that enabled our team to reach more children as we empower communities to break the cycle of poverty. With the support of an amazing Leadership Committee, Gala for Good raised over \$1 million—the most to date—which will help us expand our child-focused poverty graduation program to more communities. The organization also secured a major partnership with The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and developed additional key relationships with other foundation, individual, and corporate supporters that are now helping the team strategically plan for future programs and expansion.

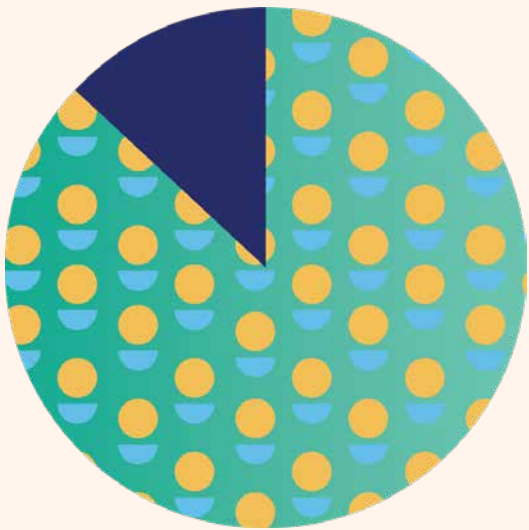


LAUNCHING OUR THREE-YEAR GROWTH PLAN

This year, Yamba Malawi launched our strategic plan to scale our innovative child-focused poverty graduation model between 2020 and 2022. Through this ambitious three-year plan, Yamba Malawi will continue to innovate and refine our model to best respond to children's needs, to prepare the organization for scale, and to pursue partnerships across sectors that enable us to reach our goal of eliminating childhood poverty in Malawi.

FINANCIALS

We are committed to ensuring each dollar donated is best utilized to better children's lives, and to sharing our progress with the utmost transparency and accountability.



THE PROGRAM EXPENSES WERE AT 87% OF THE TOTAL EXPENSE IN 2019.

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$1,847,311
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$1,321,660
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES	\$96,432
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$107,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,525,092
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,159,350
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$32,800
NET ASSET BALANCE	\$1,126,550



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OUR LEADERSHIP

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ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI

From joining us at the Gala for Good or visiting us in Malawi, running a marathon or attending an event, donating to support our work or following along with us on social media, we are grateful for the entire Yamba Malawi community and the various ways you all have supported our work. It is through your efforts that we are empowering communities to build brighter futures for children in Malawi—we couldn't do it without you. Thank you.



“My father had a motto, change one life and you change the world. I support Yamba Malawi because they take this approach. They put in the time, hard work, and energy to give each and every child the chance to dream. Their holistic approach prioritizes education and healthcare. One important factor that leaves me impressed is that the organization is working towards a Yamba Malawi run by Malawians and for Malawians. To see a world where every community, every caregiver, is self-sustainable and able to give their children what they need. That is why I choose to support Yamba Malawi.”

SIYABONGA (SIYA) MADIKANE
2019 GALA HONOREE





"It's really inspiring to learn first hand how an organization is affecting real change in the world. When I attended my first Yamba Malawi Gala, not knowing much about the organization, I was so moved meeting the partners from Malawi. The father was so appreciative of the skills he had learned and resources he had been given from Yamba Malawi that are today helping him build a business, provide for his children and serve his community. I'm consistently impressed with the work that Yamba Malawi is doing to grow the organization to better serve the children and families in Malawi and am happy to support in any way that I can."

SUSAN KILKENNY
GALA LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

"We see a real opportunity to impact the lives of young children affected by HIV and AIDS in Malawi through a livelihoods-focused program. Yamba Malawi's approach to child-focused poverty graduation is unique. We are excited to be supporting their efforts to pair early childhood development training and coaching for caregivers with economic empowerment interventions, which address poverty as a key barrier to improved outcomes for children."

LISA BOHMER
CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION





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MALAWI

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