

Per the grant letter dated August 27, 2021, Yamba Malawi is pleased to share this year-end report with Together Women Rise about our **Meeting the Needs of Young Mothers and Ending Childhood Poverty in Mangochi, Malawi** project, which was TWR's featured May 2022 Grantee.

- Organization Name: Yamba Malawi
- Project Title: Meeting the Needs of Young Mothers and Ending Childhood Poverty in Mangochi, Malawi
- Grant Amount: \$50,000
- Contact Person: Cristina Valverde, Development Manager
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Grant Objectives

The purpose of Yamba Malawi's grant from Together Women Rise (TWR) was to empower 250 women's households, including an estimated 25% young mothers (under age 22), to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children through a holistic, child-focused poverty graduation program in Mangochi District in the Southern Region, Malawi. These objectives remain unchanged, and Yamba Malawi has made good progress in achieving the objectives, as described further below.

Grant Accomplishments to Date

With support from this grant, Yamba Malawi successfully launched the first all-women cohort of our child-focused poverty graduation model, located in Traditional Authority Bwanayambi in Mangochi District in the Southern Region of Malawi. As of November 30, 2022, there were 299 women enrolled in the cohort, including 64 young mothers (21% of total), who have formed a total of 12 peer groups. They began program activities in Q4 2022, and are expected to be ready to launch their businesses in Q2 2023.

To recap YM's program model, our innovative Childhoods & Livelihoods Program is the only ultra-poor poverty graduation (UPG) program in Malawi that focuses on children's outcomes, which is a critical need. Child poverty is a crisis in Malawi, where 35% of children are stunted by age five.

In 2022, with support from TWR as well as other funders including the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, YM launched our first all-women cohort of the Program, with a special focus on the needs of young mothers in Mangochi District, which had among Malawi's highest increases in teen pregnancy levels as a result of COVID-related school closures in 2020-2021. Yamba Malawi's UPG program empowers women and youth with the skills, resources, and knowledge they need to build sustainable pathways out of extreme poverty for themselves and their children. Our three-year program provides a holistic package of training, temporary income support, business startup-capital, and coaching and mentoring over three years to ensure that women and youth have the support they need to succeed.

To date, each participant in the Bwanayambi cohort has received a cell phone, SIM card, and opened a mobile money account (using the Mukuru mobile platform) on which they receive monthly consumption support. Each participant has signed an MOU/Social Contract with Yamba Malawi, which enhances their self-confidence and ability to effectively and meaningfully participate in program activities. Training sessions in YM's Early Childhood Development



(ECD) and Entrepreneurship and Business Development (BED) curricula began, with groups having covered BED sessions 1-4 and ECD sessions 1-3 as of November 30, 2022. All 299 program participants and 230 household partners were also trained in Village Savings & Loan (VSL) methodology, and the 12 peer groups have each formed a VSL group. VSL kits were distributed in all the savings groups, and saving started soon after the second consumption support transfers.

In preparation for the launch of the Bwanayambi program, YM conducted a gender assessment focused on male involvement in parenting activities in TA Bwanayambi, using a Comprehensive Community Scorecard template that was provided by NACC, a local CBO in Mangochi that implements gender-sensitive programming in the area. Yamba Malawi held a dialogue session with 30 community gatekeepers about barriers hindering male involvement in childcare on December 14, 2022, as well as dialogue sessions with 300 male partners about their role in parenting and early childhood development on December 15, 2022.

Looking forward into 2023, Yamba Malawi will conduct a needs assessment among the young mothers in this cohort, and facilitate formation of peer groups of young mothers (based on geographical proximity) to act as platforms for dialogue. Based on the findings of the needs assessment, potential support activities for young mothers may include:

- Therapy sessions to assist with dealing with stress and other issues, conducted by NACC Psychosocial officers. NACC adapt their Children's Corner approach of sharing happy and sad moments to share and discuss issues in both group and individual therapy sessions,
- Peer dialogue and coaching on issues affecting young mothers, such as parenting skills and family planning resources,
- Referrals and linkages to other NGOs for other needed services, and
- Exploring linkages with other organizations, such as Go Fund a Girl Child, who are working in the impact area on back-to-school efforts and psychosocial support programs, among other issues.

We expect that program participants will be prepared to receive cash transfers of startup capital to launch their own businesses in mid-Q2 or early Q3 of 2023. By the time that Yamba prepares our final grant report due in August 2023, all participants will have launched their businesses, an important milestone on their pathway to leaving behind extreme poverty and building sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their children.

Financial Report

As illustrated in the attached financial report, as of December 31, 2022, YM has spent 27% of the \$50,000 grant. Because the majority of direct program expenses are expended in the first 12 months of YM's program (including monthly cash transfers, and a one-time transfer of startup business capital after approximately six months of program activities) and the Bwanayambi cohort launched in Q4 2022, YM projects to fully expend this grant by the end of 2023.

Case Study: Samia Witman

Samia Twaib Witman (36 years old) is a program participant who lives in Tambala Village in T/A Bwanayambi. Samia is a single mother of five children, Byson Lymon (17 years old and married), Violet Adam (13 years old), Hawa Davie (10 years old, who suffers from epilepsy), Mercy Mark (7 years old) and Flora Dyton (2 years and 3 months old). Samia has been living hand to mouth for years with no sustainable means of survival.



Samia's family is one of the households that enrolled in YM's Bwanayambi program cohort in Q4 2021. During a household visit in early November 2022, Flora was found to be moderately malnourished through use of a middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement of 12.2CM. Yamba's Field Facilitator also noticed that she looked very thin and small. Consultations with her mother confirmed that Flora has been malnourished for some time, as she had already received emergency malnutrition treatment in July 2022, which was confirmed with her health passport. Flora also has recurring diarrhea, and is usually weak.

When asked why her daughter was not enrolled into the supplementary food program (SFP), Samia said; *"After being discharged from the Outpatient Therapeutic Program, the health personnel told me that Flora was supposed to be eating CSB (Corn Soy Blend) which was not available at the hospital. So I was just told to make sure that the porridge that she eats is nutritious."*

However, Samia was not able to feed CSB porridge to Flora, as she cannot afford to buy it. She explained that Flora had only eaten plain maize porridge the day before. From the advice she got

from the hospital, Samia was advised to only feed Flora soft food which is easy to digest, and therefore limited to porridge.

After she began to receive consumption support from the program beginning in November 2022, Samia was advised by the Yamba Malawi Field Facilitator to buy soybeans and groundnuts so that she can make her own nutritious porridge flour for Flora, with step-by-step guidance on the type and quantities of foods to combine. The nutritious flour for Flora's porridge was made from maize, soya and groundnuts. Samia was further coached to mix the porridge with other nutritious foodstuffs, like eggs and dried vegetables, when cooking.

Through the mentoring and coaching support that Samia received, she has hope that Flora's health will improve and that she will move from the yellow zone to green zone on the MUAC tape. Samia appreciates that Yamba Malawi's program has come at the right for her family.



Left: Field facilitator taking MUAC measurement



Right: Samia's house



Above: Samia preparing corn-soy blend, and the end product ready for milling

Yamba Malawi x Together Women Rise

Meeting the Needs of Young Mothers and Ending Childhood Poverty in Mangochi, Malawi	Year 1	TWR Request	% Request
Start Date	1/1/2022	1/1/2022	
End Date	12/31/2022	12/31/2022	
Salaries and Benefits			
Total FTE Staff (#)	10		
Mangochi-Based Staff Community #2			
District Coordinator	15,000	4,500	30%
Office Assistant	6,000	1,800	30%
Program Officer 1	8,951	2,685	30%
Program Officer 2	8,951	2,685	30%
Field Facilitators (6)	29,244	8,773	30%
Total Benefit Costs			
Pension Contribution	7,796	312	4%
Health Insurance Cost	16,800	504	3%
Subtotal Salaries & Benefits	92,742	21,260	
Operating Expenses			
Printing & Postage	5,000	-	0%
Legal & Accounting	-	-	0%
Rent (Mangochi)	8,000	-	0%
Staff Travel & Transportation			
Domestic travel and hired cars	6,000	-	0%
Petrol & Diesel	15,000	-	0%
Vehicle maintenance, insurance, fuel	7,533	-	0%
International Travel	-	-	0%
Telephone & Internet			
Telephone	1,600	-	0%
Staff Phone Units	4,865	-	0%
Internet	5,000	-	0%
TaroWorks (M&E)	-	-	0%
IT Services	2,000	-	0%
Subtotal Operating Expenses	54,998		
Direct Implementation: New Community in 2022			
Startup & Support Costs			
Market analysis & refining program materials	3,600	-	0%
Business technical assistance & VSL startup costs	7,500	-	0%
Staff Recruitment	3,733	-	0%
Community Sensitization	2,000	-	0%
ECD Coalition	1,500	-	0%
Quarterly Review Meetings	1,173	-	0%
M&E			
Household listing/PPI Survey	8,377	-	0%
Wealth Ranking	1,697	-	0%
Household Verification	3,705	-	0%
Baseline survey	5,995	-	0%
Other	5,275	-	0%
Trainings			
Staff training	11,661	-	0%
Community training	14,058	-	0%
Direct Transfers			
Consumption Support for HH (250)	60,000	18,000	30%
Asset Transfer for HH	31,250	9,372	30%
Support for 1 CBO, 1 ECD Task Force, 5 CBCCs	945	-	0%
Asset Transfer for 1 CBO, 1 ECD Task Force, 5 CBCCs	5,500	-	0%
Mobile Transfer Fees	9,770	-	0%
Vehicles & Equipment			
Motorcycles (2)	10,000	-	0%

Bicycles (6)	2,100	-	0%
Laptop Computers (3)	2,700	-	0%
Tablets (6)	1,200	-	0%
Phones (250)	5,000	-	0%
Protective Gear Sets(9)	1,080	-	0%
Back packs (9)	540	-	0%
Office Furniture Sets (3)	600	-	0%
Solar Gadgets	450	-	0%
Subtotal Direct Implementation Project Costs	201,410	27,372	
Indirect Costs @ 5% of Admin + Project Costs	12,820	1,369	
GRAND TOTAL	361,970	50,000	14%

Projected Revenue

Together Women Rise (projected)	50,000
Theodore J Forstmann Charitable Trust (committed)	150,000
Conrad N Hilton Foundation (verbally committed)	75,000
Unrestricted individual and corporate support (projected)	86,970

GRAND TOTAL	361,970
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