



Mai Aisha Trust

2024

ANNUAL REVIEW

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Introduction

In the year 2024, Mai Aisha Trust (MAT) remained committed in its mission to empower marginalized communities so as to uplift their living standards through provision of quality education and healthcare services, promotion of sustainable development practices, including irrigation farming to attain food security, and economic empowerment through skills training and provision of start-up materials and resources so as to facilitate their participation in income-generating activities.



At the 2024 NGO Day commemoration held at Sanjika Palace in Blantyre, Sister Khadeeja Majaja, Administrator of Mai Aisha Trust, briefed His Excellency President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera on the Trust's nationwide development and humanitarian initiatives.



MASYAP awards bursaries to secondary school and college female students

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Primary and Secondary School Education

Mai Aisha Trust is the proprietor of three private educational institutions namely; Balaka Islamic Institute (BII) in Balaka district which offers secondary school education and Mai Aisha Academy (MAA) education institutions – a primary school and a secondary school both situated in the Capital City, Lilongwe. Additionally, the Organization is operating nine (9) more schools in Mangochi district, two (2) of which are secondary schools.

Teaching and Learning Materials

To ensure that all learners enjoy a conducive learning environment, Mai Aisha Trust procures and provides school teaching and learning materials such as textbooks, desks, school bags, chalkboards, and other educational requirements such as school uniforms to learners from low-income families, enabling them to access quality education and pursue higher learning opportunities.



Amani Primary School learners, proudly wearing uniforms provided by Mai Aisha Trust, celebrated with joy during the official opening of their newly constructed school in Matuwi, Mangochi district.

HEALTHCARE SERVICES



Mai Aisha Trust plays a very important role in the health sector. It collaborates with the Ministry of Health in all health needs assessment for rural communities including holding of medical camps

Restoring Sight and Hope – Dedicated doctors perform life-changing cataract surgeries at the IHAM eye camp, giving patients in Mangochi the gift of clear vision once again.

and running of health facilities in partnership with the Islamic Health Association of Malawi (IHAM) and Madina Social Services (MSS).

"A New Outlook on Life" – Melia Wisiki, whose vision was restored after a year of cataract-induced blindness, shares her gratitude for IHAM's initiative.



FOOD SECURITY AND IRRIGATION FARMING INITIATIVES



Presently, Mai Aisha Trust supports and supervises over 100 irrigation schemes across the nation, working closely with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture for their expertise to monitor progress.

This concerted initiative directly benefits over 1,500 subsistence farming households, significantly bolstering food security and amplifying crop yields by 60% within targeted communities.



One of the vibrant irrigation scheme sites Mai Aisha Trust supports financially and materially in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

These initiatives are embarked on to support government's efforts in ensuring food security through irrigation farming. The Trust assists farmers by building water reservoirs and piping at the reservoir's base. Additionally, the Trust provides complete solar system equipment for farmers utilizing solar-powered irrigation systems.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS

1

Provision of Potable Water

Mai Aisha Trust is dedicated to securing clean and safe water for rural areas, aiming to arrest and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Furthermore, the Trust facilitates the sourcing and distribution of waterwheels to alleviate the burden, primarily borne by women, of transporting water from the boreholes to their homes. It also periodically rehabilitates boreholes reported to be malfunctioning or no longer draws groundwater.



The community of Nombo Village was filled with disbelief and joy as they finally gained access to safe and clean water, courtesy of Mai Aisha Trust.

2

Microfinance Initiatives

Due to the high unemployment rate, Mai Aisha Trust complements government's efforts by supporting women and other vulnerable groups with soft loans to set up entrepreneurship to sustain themselves economically and socially. So far the microfinance program has provided microloans to over 150 entrepreneurs fostering self-sufficiency and economic stability at household level.



Microfinance Officer Sister Alinafe Maluwa (left) admires the merchandise displayed by a beneficiary of the MASYAP Microfinance Program at her vending stall.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS



The Mbuzi (Goat) Pass-on launched in Mikundi village, marking the beginning of a new initiative to transform lives

These income-generating activities include Goat Pass-on and Bee-keeping among others; and currently being implemented in the villages of Maundu, Makha, Mikundi and Nsenda, Traditional Authority Bwana Nyambi in Mangochi district.

3 Income-generating Activities

Mai Aisha Trust, in collaboration with partners, initiated income-generating activities in rural communities, aiming to promote self-dependency, social interaction, and active participation in community development among households.



Trained Bee-keeping project beneficiaries geared to launch their beehives

RELIEF, WELFARE, FEEDING



Mai Aisha Trust plays a significant role in addressing relief issues and welfare needs within communities that desperately require urgent assistance.

1 Relief Aid:



Elderly women and female-headed households struggling with hunger felt immense relief as they received bags of maize flour through the support of Mai Aisha Trust.

Through collaborative efforts with local organizations and international donor partners, Mai Aisha Trust is actively involved in providing essential aid to individuals affected by natural disasters. Emergency relief aid is swiftly mobilized and delivered to affected communities, and this include crucial supplies such as food items, blankets, utensils, plastic roofing sheets, and direct cash assistance. Counselling is also provided so as to instill hope and strengthen positivity towards the victims' recovery out of stress and anxiety.

2 School Feeding



It runs a school feeding program benefitting twelve thousand (12,000) learners daily in various primary schools and madrassas across the country.

Learners at ZODEC in Zomba partaking their food as they prepare for upcoming lessons

RELIEF, WELFARE, FEEDING

3 Food Distribution

During Ramadan, iftar packs containing assorted food items were distributed to over 15 thousand households across Mangochi, Balaka, Machinga, Zomba, and other districts in the Southern region. In response to widespread hunger affecting many parts of the country, the organization also began mobilizing food supplies, primarily maize flour, to distribute to needy and hunger-stricken households.



WOMEN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS



To address the challenges faced by many female- and child-headed households in the country, the Organization launched Mai Aisha Sisters and Youth AIDS Programme (MASYAP) in 2008. Through this program, various activities were initiated aimed at supporting women and youth to alleviate their social and economic hardships, and the following are some of the activities that have been implemented under MASYAP in 2024:

1. HIV Testing and Counselling
2. Support group outreach
3. Microfinance
4. School fees bursary programme
5. World AIDS Day Commemoration
6. Nutrition; food relief



Muslim sisters listened attentively as the facilitation of the Muslim women's symposium was in progress.

ISLAMIC INFORMATION BUREAU YOUTH DESK



The Islamic Information Bureau (IIB) is a vital information centre within the Muslim community, providing diverse services focused on promoting moral growth, community involvement, and social development. The Bureau has a dedicated youth desk that organizes programs and activities specifically for Muslim youth, with a significant portion of participants being Muslim students. In 2024, IIB has, among others, successfully implemented the following programme activities:



- **Youth Leadership Training:** Equipping young Muslims with leadership skills to promote positive change within their communities.
- **Islamic Values Seminars:** Regular sessions to help young Muslims integrate Islamic principles into everyday life.
- **Inter-District Youth Camps:** Camps that bring together youth from various regions to foster connections, share ideas, and tackle common challenges collaboratively.

ISLAMIC INFORMATION BUREAU YOUTH DESK



- **Career Guidance Initiatives:** Partnering with professionals to offer career counseling and mentorship, supporting young Muslims in their professional aspirations.
- **Halqa Programs:** Halqa (study circle) programs, visiting schools, and engaging Muslim students through Muslim Student Associations.
- **Radio and TV Programs:** Educational programs broadcast on radio and television to broaden outreach and provide Islamic education to a wider audience.



Abdul Aziz Yassin, Head of Programs at Mai Aisha Trust, mentoring the youth on leadership skills.

HALAAL DEPARTMENT (HD)



This is a leading and nationally recognized Halaal certifying regulatory body which has been in operation since 1995. It guides on what is pure for human consumption in accordance with the Shariah, and regulates manufacturers and outlets of food and/or related products. So far HD has the confidence of many reputable and credible institutions in the business sector which operate under its certification, inspection, and supervision.



Halaal Department National Coordinator
Sheikh Abdul Majid Chibwe (centre) receives a
certificate of membership to the World Halaal
Council for 2024/2025

HALAAL DEPARTMENT (HD)



In addition to inspecting and certifying food outlets, the Department has undertaken significant initiatives, successfully implementing the following program activities in 2024:

- Attended the Annual General Meeting of the World Halaal Council in Durban.
- Conducted seminars for stakeholders in various parts of the country to educate and engage on Halaal standards and compliance.
- Raised awareness of Halaal issues through broadcasts on Radio Islam and TV Islam.
- Created and distributed posters and materials on Halaal standards across social media.
- Established and maintained active social media pages, including on WhatsApp, Facebook, X, and Instagram, to keep the public informed.
- Delivered lectures on Halaal principles and requirements in Masjids across the country, fostering better understanding and adherence to Halaal practices within the community.

MEDIA, PUBLICATIONS, AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Media Outlets

Mai Aisha Trust values the critical role that media play in informing and educating the public on issues related to spiritual and moral understanding, social and community development, and matters of national significance. To this end, the Trust passionately offers financial and moral support to various media establishments, including print, electronic, and new media.



Television Islam news anchor Fareedah Muheya on air

The following are the media institutions Mai Aisha Trust supports in their operations financially and materially:

1

Television Islam

This is a national broadcaster with a diverse audience and programming, focusing predominantly on Islamic content and the Muslim world.

MEDIA, PUBLICATIONS, AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

2 Insight Bulletin

This is a monthly free magazine covering a broad spectrum of local and international news, with a special emphasis on the Palestinian struggle. It primarily targets government officials, heads of private sector, religious authorities, and policy-makers.



Insight Bulletin magazine covering a wide range of issues of national interest

Its objective is to deliver fundamental Islamic teachings in a simple and engaging format, primarily through a question and answer style that facilitates quick learning and retention.

3 Al-Haqq Newsletter

This is a monthly newsletter aimed at providing accessible and concise Islamic knowledge to individuals with limited or no prior understanding of Islam.

MEDIA, PUBLICATIONS, AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

4

Halaal Briefs:

This is an info magazine produced and circulated by the Halaal Department (HD) to inform clients and the general public about Halaal products and recommended food processing methods. Released annually and distributed for free, the publication includes clarifications on frequently asked questions about Halaal certification through its Q&A segment, offering valuable insights for both consumers and business owners.



Qur'an, Literature, Publication and Research



a) Translation of the Qur'an into Chichewa language: Mai Aisha Trust in collaboration with the Council of Ulama and Sheikhs in Malawi played a vital role to have the Qur'an translated into Chichewa language which is nationally spoken in Malawi. Chichewa, elsewhere called Chinyanja, is also widely spoken in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. To make it more accessible to a larger audience, audio format of the Chichewa-Qur'an translation is readily available for broadcast on both radio and television, and other media platforms.

b) Translation of selected Islamic literature into Chichewa language: This is another equally important project the Organization embarks on annually to foster deeper understanding of Islam among the general public.



A collection of Islamic literature on display in the reading room of the Limbe Islamic Information Bureau.

Completed is the translation of the following books ready for printing and circulation:

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1. The Hidden Treasure – Chuma Chobisika
 2. The Muslim’s Belief – Chikhulupiliro Cha Msilamu
 3. My Great Love for Jesus Led Me to Islam – Kusefukira kwa Chikondi Changa kwa Yesu

c) Mai Aisha Trust has distributed about 600 copies of Chichewa translated Qur’an to various institutions and organizations including the Muslim Association of Malawi, Islamic Information Bureaus, Light of Peace Exhibition Centre for Arabic and Islamic Civilization, among others. Other reading materials of the Islamic literature were also distributed to provide comprehensive insights to new Muslims into Islamic teachings, aiming to stimulate curiosity and encourage further exploration of the faith.

CONCLUSION

Mai Aisha Trust remains unwavering in its commitment to transforming lives through a range of humanitarian initiatives focused on empowering underprivileged communities. By delivering programs that provide access to essential resources, health care, and educational opportunities, the Trust strives to break cycles of poverty and uplift those in need. As we move forward, Mai Aisha Trust continues to prioritize resilience, compassion, and community-driven solutions, with a firm belief that every individual deserves a chance at a brighter future. Our mission is not only to improve lives but to inspire hope and foster self-sufficiency among those we serve.

MAI AISHA TRUST CONTACTS



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1st Floor, Globe Chambers, Limbe CBD



P O Box 5866, Limbe, Malawi



(265) 1 844 126



info@maiaisha.org



www.maiaisha.org