



Mai Aisha Trust



MAI AISHA TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2023

‘Our strength and obligation are only for the pleasure of Allah’

Foreword

Founded in 2002, Mai Aisha Trust remains a key Local Non-Governmental Organization (LNGO) with focus in areas of education, health, food security as well as water and sanitation programs. Mai Aisha is an accredited member of Non-Governmental Organization Regulatory Authority (NGORA) and Council for Non-Governmental Organization of Malawi (CONGOMA).

The organization's aims and objectives are to improve the poor living conditions prevalent among the less-privileged rural communities.

This report reflects on the impactful project implementation progress period of 2023. Mai Aisha Trust would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Allah for the guidance in the achievement of some success stories in reaching out to most disadvantaged communities through various development interventions that positively impacted on their lives. Through interventions as highlighted in this report, a number of projects were proposed and executed with evident positive outcomes realized. The year 2023 was a reflection of team work and commitment not only by the trustees, but also, dedication of our projects team. Nothing would have been possible in the absence of the unwavering financial support from our committed donor partners and even more, the positive spirit recipient communities demonstrated that the resources reaching out to them were put to good use, hence improving their living conditions.



His Excellency the President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera presents an award to Mr. Abdul Aziz Yasin (left), Programs Manager of Mai Aisha Trust, during the NGO Awards presentation ceremony at Kamuzu Palace.

The expansion of our educational footprint remains a cornerstone of our endeavors. The construction and opening of schools in very remote areas where many children are deprived of basic education due to lack of better learning facilities signifies the Trust's determination to provide not only quality but also, accessible education to every child, regardless of their environment. Our education interventions encompass not only the construction of classroom blocks and teachers' houses but also, the provision of learning and teaching materials.

Mai Aisha Trust in collaboration with its potential donors, introduced school health and nutrition feeding in schools aimed at enhancing retention in schools.

In 2023, Mai Aisha Trust received an award for being one of the outstanding NGO, significantly impacting on the rural poor with various development programs. His Excellency the President, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, presented the award at Kamuzu Palace in Lilongwe on 14th December, 2023.

Director
Faisal Kassam

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Increased access to quality education:

Emphasizing on the need for education as key to national development, Mai Aisha Trust attaches great importance to communities' needs by ensuring that people have equal access to quality education. Emphasis aims at bringing about long-term solution in national development agenda. It provides opportunity to children, particularly the girl-child who endures hardships accessing education due to long distances they cover to reach the 'nearest' school

Recognizing education as the cornerstone of societal advancement, Mai Aisha Trust places paramount importance on ensuring quality education reaches marginalized communities. In collaboration with government, the Trust has played a pivotal role in constructing and establishing primary and secondary schools in rural areas. These schools are operationally managed by the government, overseeing teacher recruitment and administrative matters. As a proprietor, the Trust, continues to support the schools by providing essential resources such as desks, text books, and conducting required maintenance work.

Additionally, the Trust owns and operates three private educational institutions — Mai Aisha Academy Primary and secondary schools, situated in Lilongwe specifically catering for orphaned and vulnerable children, and Balaka Islamic Institute situated in Balaka.

Mai Aisha Trust has set up a combined total of 10 schools, comprising 6 primary schools and 4 secondary schools, as listed below. Additionally, there are ongoing construction efforts for 4 more primary schools and one secondary school.

Table 1

No.	Name of School	Level	Location
1	Mai Aisha Academy	Secondary	Lilongwe
2	Balaka Islamic Institute	Secondary	Balaka
3	Nangapoche CDSS	Secondary	Mangochi
4	Chiwinga CDSS	Secondary	Mangochi
5	Mai Aisha Academy	Primary	Lilongwe
6	Nangapoche	Primary	Mangochi
7	Namalweso	Primary	Mangochi
8	Ngala	Primary	Mangochi
9	Mpenjele	Primary	Mangochi
10	Mlimba	Primary	Mangochi



Students from Nangapoche Community Day Secondary School taking a break during their free time.

SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Mai Aisha Trust administers a school health and nutrition program that encompasses 11 primary schools to which it is the proprietor, as well as several other public primary schools. This initiative has yielded remarkable results, showcasing heightened enrollment rates, improved academic performance, and a significant reduction in school dropouts. By providing breakfast meals and lunch, learners no longer attend classes on an empty stomach, a stark contrast to the circumstances prior to the program's implementation in the target schools. Additionally, the program extends to learners who attend madras after school as they commence afternoon madras lessons. This program benefits over 12,000 learners across 25 learning institutions located in the districts of Mangochi, Blantyre, Zomba, and Mulanje.



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



Breakfast time for students at Luchichi Primary School in Mangochi.

HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Malawi faces substantial healthcare hurdles, including restricted access to medical facilities, inadequate essential medicines, and insufficient healthcare infrastructure, among other challenges. Recognizing these obstacles, Mai Aisha Trust in collaboration with Madina Social Services (MSS) intervened to bridge these gaps. A needs assessment carried out revealed prevalent health issues, prioritizing concerns such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, and malnutrition for immediate attention.

Drop of Compassion (DOC) plays a vital role in providing financial support towards the operation of the health facilities. This has been achieved by establishing both static and mobile clinics in Balntyre and Mangochi, aiming at improving quality and accessible healthcare service delivery to most rural and hard to reach areas. Namalweso and Somba Health Centres situated in Mangochi district in Traditional Authorities Makanjira and Bwana Nyambi respectively are two of the diligently running healthcare facilities serving the rural communities.



The Maternity Wing at Somba Health Centre welcomes a new baby, with the mother providing comfort while the medical attendant observes.

Additionally, the organization in collaboration with the Islamic Health Association of Malawi (IHAM) regularly hosts medical camps where both local and international medical specialists provide free expertise and specialized healthcare to patients in need.

Led by IHAM, healthcare-focused medical camps were conducted in the following manner:

Table 2

NO.	LOCATION	PERIOD HELD	TREATMENT	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
1	Kamuzu Central Hospital Bottom Hospital - Lilongwe	May 2023	General Surgery Fistula repairs	120
2	Kamuzu Central Hospital	June, July 2023	Orthopaedic	126
3	Salima District Hospital	August, September 2023	Ophthalmology	240
4	Mzuzu Central Hospital Nkhata Bay District Hospital	December 2023	General Surgery	190



At Nkhata Bay District Hospital, surgery underway during the IHAM medical camp, led by both local and international specialists.

FOOD SECURITY AND IRRIGATION FARMING INITIATIVES

Mai Aisha Trust actively contributes to the government's endeavors in ensuring food security by providing financial and material assistance to the irrigation farming program. This collaborative effort, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers, facilitates year-round crop cultivation. Presently, the organization supports and supervises over 105 irrigation schemes across the nation, working closely with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture for their expertise and to monitor progress. This concerted initiative has directly benefited over 1,000 farming families, significantly bolstering food security and amplifying crop yields by 60% within targeted communities.



In the fields of Mlimba Irrigation Scheme, Mangochi district, farmers are diligently at work.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS

1. Provision of Safe and clean Water

Mai Aisha Trust is dedicated to securing clean and safe water for rural areas, aiming to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. In partnership with organizations like Drop of Compassion, it undertakes borehole drilling projects to benefit these communities. Through collaboration with various partners interested in humanitarian aid, water access, and rural welfare, the Trust facilitates the distribution of waterwheels to aid in transporting water from boreholes to households.



Improved access to clean and safe water has transformed life in the rural community of Nombo village, Mangochi district.



As community members of Swala in Machinga district receive Waterwheels, their joy is evident as they push them with enthusiasm to improve water accessibility.

2. Microfinance Initiatives

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

3. Skill Development Training

Mai Aisha Trust is committed to fostering empowerment among women and youth by offering skill development training programs. These initiatives focus on vocational careers like plumbing, bricklaying, and tailoring, equipping participants to either launch their own small businesses or secure employment within these industries. By providing support to such training programs, we aim at empowering individuals to thrive in these fields.

4. Income Generating Activities

A significant number of households have experienced substantial financial benefits through the income-generating initiatives introduced by Mai Aisha Trust in the rural communities of Mangochi district. In collaboration with Drop of Compassion, the Trust is actively implementing Mbuzi (Goat) Pass-on and Bee-keeping projects across four villages namely; Maundu, Makha, Mikundi and Nsenda in the district.

4.1 Mbuzi (Goat) Pass-on Project: After participating in a training exercise focused on project management and maintenance, 75 beneficiaries from the above mentioned villages initially received a total of 152 live goats. The first-generation offspring were gathered and subsequently passed on to other families. The Mbuzi (Goat) project, geared towards empowering families through women, serves as a means to alleviate poverty and foster self-sufficiency. Goats, being low-maintenance livestock, offer sustainable income sources, yielding an average of four offspring annually. These offspring can be either sold, retained for reproduction, or passed on to another family in accordance with the project guidelines.



The Mbuzi (Goat) Pass-On Project kicks off in Mikundi village, Mangochi district, marking the beginning of a new initiative to transform lives.

4.2 Bee-keeping Project: The project has economically benefited communities of Makha, Nsenda and Maundu villages. Beneficiaries from each of these villages underwent bee-keeping training, which encompassed the utilization of equipment, proper attire, and the construction of bee sheds. Presently, these communities are successfully overseeing their bee hives and continue receiving ongoing supervision and guidance from local experts.



With training and essential resources in hand, community members from Maundu, Nsenda, and Makha villages stand ready to embark on the beekeeping industry.

5. Relief Aid

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. In the face of devastating cyclones, floods, droughts, or earthquakes, we swiftly mobilize to deliver emergency relief, including crucial supplies like food, blankets, utensils, plastic roofing sheets, and direct cash assistance to the affected individuals. These initiatives are geared towards addressing the immediate needs of the victims and facilitating the construction of temporary shelters for those impacted by the disasters.



Essential relief items being distributed to households affected by floods and other natural disasters.



Mai Aisha Trust

Promoting Education, Sustainable Livelihood
and
Economic Empowerment