



Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organization

2024

Annual Report

P.O Box 2526, Blantyre.
Galawanda Village, Group Village Headman
Mpasuka, Lunzu, Blantyre
Cell: +265 998030018.
Email: chicosudo.info@gmail.com/
info@chicosudo.com.
Website: www.chicosudo.com

The reason why we exist.

To empower marginalized women and youth by ensuring equal access to basic needs, holistic support services, and opportunities for sustainable personal and community development.



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Introduction From Programs Director /Co-founder

As the Executive Director of CHICOSUDO, it is both an honor and a privilege to present this annual report, which reflects our ongoing commitment to empowering marginalized women, youth, and children in Malawi. Over the past year, CHICOSUDO has continued its mission to ensure equal access to basic needs, holistic support services, and opportunities for sustainable personal and community development. We remain steadfast in our dedication to addressing the barriers that prevent women and children from achieving their full potential, particularly in the rural areas of Blantyre, Mulanje, and beyond.

Since its founding in 2004, CHICOSUDO has grown from a small Community-Based Organization (CBO) into a registered local non-governmental organization (NGO) with an expansive reach. Today, our work spans across multiple districts, benefiting thousands of community members through a diverse range of programs focused on education, health, gender equality, economic empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods.

This year has been marked by significant achievements, and we have made tangible progress in many of the areas that matter most to the communities we serve. Through our integrated approach to programming, we have worked hand-in-hand with local communities to address the root causes of poverty, violence, and inequality, while promoting access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. We are proud of the strides we have made, but we are also aware that much remains to be done, particularly in the face of the many challenges posed by poverty and social inequities.

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive overview of our activities, key achievements, and the impact we've had on the lives of over **7,500** community members in the past year. These efforts are not just about providing immediate support, but about building long-term, sustainable change that will continue to benefit future generations.

This report also highlights our alignment with the **Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III** and the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly in the areas of ending poverty, ensuring quality education, promoting gender equality, and fostering economic growth. Our work continues to be driven by our core values of equity, empowerment, sustainability, and collaboration.

As we move forward, CHICOSUDO remains committed to expanding its reach and impact, strengthening its partnerships, and staying true to our vision of a just and inclusive society where every woman, child, and youth has the opportunity to thrive.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all our donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and the communities we serve for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we are creating meaningful change, and we look forward to another year of progress and growth.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission.



What we do

Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organization (CHICOSUDO) is a Malawian nongovernmental organization founded in 2004 and registered with the Malawi Government under the Trustees Incorporation Act in 2007. Our mission is to empower marginalized women and youth by ensuring equal access to basic needs, holistic support services, and opportunities for sustainable personal and community development. Initially established as a Community-Based Organization (CBO), CHICOSUDO transitioned to a local nongovernmental organization in 2012.

CHICOSUDO was founded in Group Village Headman Kumponda, Senior Chief Kapeni in Blantyre. The organization expanded from serving 18 villages to 140 villages in 2012. In 2017, CHICOSUDO expanded its programs to Mulanje District. By 2022, CHICOSUDO was officially registered with the NGO Board of Malawi.

Our Work

CHICOSUDO continues to focus on uplifting the lives of marginalized women and children in rural areas. Our approach is community-led, where project participants remain central to project identification, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Our key focus areas include:

- **Education and Skills Development**
- **Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods**
- **Health and Well-being**
- **Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence**
- **Advocacy and Leadership**

In the year ending June 2024, CHICOSUDO reached **10,000 community members** across two districts through our projects. At the national level, our work aligns with the **Malawi Growth Development Strategy III** and the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

- **Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- **Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

- **Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Challenges

Despite progress in reducing poverty in the country, over **50% of Malawians** still live in poverty. In both Blantyre and Mulanje districts, many community members live below the poverty line of less than a dollar per day. The most vulnerable groups are women and children, with poverty serving as a major driver of various abuses. Poverty, illiteracy, violence, and neglect are serious health and social concerns in marginalized communities, and women and children are the most affected by these issues.

In both districts, **29% of women aged 15-19** have begun childbearing; **22% have had a live birth**, and **7% are pregnant with their first child**. In rural areas, **31% of women aged 15-19** have begun childbearing, compared to **21% in urban areas**. These statistics highlight the urgent need for interventions aimed at addressing child marriage, gender-based violence, and other forms of abuse.

Vision Statement

CHICOSUDO envisions a society where marginalized women and youth have equal access to opportunities for development, empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods.

Mission Statement

To empower marginalized women and youth by ensuring equal access to basic needs, holistic support services, and opportunities for sustainable personal and community development.

Core Values

The following principles guide CHICOSUDO's operations:

- **Equity:** Prioritizing the needs of marginalized groups.
- **Empowerment:** Promoting independence and self-reliance.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring long-term impact through responsible practices.
- **Collaboration:** Building partnerships to amplify impact.

Strategic Goals

CHICOSUDO's strategic objectives are aligned with our mission and focus on improving the lives of marginalized women and youth:

- Enhance access to quality education and vocational training programs for marginalized women and youth to equip them with skills that increase employability and foster long-term personal and community development.
- Promote economic independence for marginalized women and youth by facilitating access to financial resources, entrepreneurship opportunities, and fair employment pathways.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of marginalized women and youth by ensuring access to essential healthcare services, health education, and mental health support.
- Advance gender equality and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) by advocating for inclusive policies, raising awareness, and providing support services to survivors of GBV within marginalized communities.

- Strengthen the organization's governance, operational capacity, and monitoring systems to ensure sustainability, transparency, and the effective delivery of services to marginalized women and youth.

Our achievement.

From July 2023 to June 2024, CHICOSUDO has focused on key areas such as education, health, disabilities, women and child protection, women's economic empowerment, skills development, and livelihoods.

CHICOSUDO employs an integrated approach in its projects and programming. Our approach always emphasizes integration, meaning that each project contributes to one or more focus areas.

Over the last 12 months, CHICOSUDO has implemented the following projects:

1. *Mtsikana Ali ndi Ufulu: The Right to a Girl*
2. Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
3. 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
4. Empowering Girls Through Access to Education (EGTAE)
5. Other projects in partnership with Corps Africa



Projects Highlights: Education

From July 2023 to June 2024, CHICOSUDO, under the *Mtsikana Ali ndi Ufulu* project—*The Right to Be a Girl*—with support from Mundo Cooperante and The Hilden Trust, has been implementing an education program focused on removing barriers that keep girls out of school and promoting early childhood development. CHICOSUDO carried out this project in Mulanje (under Traditional Authority Nkanda)

Key achievements were:

- School uniform and writing materials 450
- School fees support . in total 20.
- 100 girls at Mambala Primary School received school uniforms.
- Distribution of 200 reusable sanitary pads.
- Training of mothers groups in reusable sanitary pads making by using local materials.
- 231 children reached and supported with early childhood development.



Projects Highlights: Women economic empowerment

Over the last 12 months, CHICOSUDO has continued empowering women to become self-reliant in various ways.

Through the *Mtsikana Ali ndi Ufulu* project, CHICOSUDO trained mothers of girls under the Girls' Safe Space program in Group Village Headman Matwika, Mulanje, in the following areas: tailoring and design, hairdressing, baking, and business management.

Additionally, CHICOSUDO promoted access to financial services by supporting village savings and loan groups, as well as a revolving loan fund. The revolving loan fund grew from three groups in 2022/2023 to 10 groups in 2023/2024, with additional funds provided under *Mtsikana Ali Ndi Ufulu*. This fund was initially established with support from the Korea Hope Foundation and is being expanded to other groups through the MAU project, which is supported by Mundo Cooperante.



- 27 parents and Girl Safe Space Mentors were empowered through vocational skills training, Tailoring and designing and hair dressing.
- 200 village Savings and loans groups members from 10 groups access to financial services through village and savings loans and capital for loan revolving fund to start or improve their businesses.
- 150 women were trained in Baking of different kinds of products.
- 6 communal vegetable gardens were established.



Projects Highlights: Gender Based Violence Prevention

Over the last 12 months, CHICOSUDO has significantly increased its efforts to address child marriage among adolescent girls aged 12 to 16 years old through community-based approaches.

With support from Mundo Cooperante under the *Mtsikana Ali ndi Ufulu* project, CHICOSUDO empowered 1,000 girls in Group Village Headman Matwika, under the Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. These girls were empowered to understand and exercise their rights through Girls' Safe Space Clubs. A total of 10 clubs were established per village, each led by mentors.

Through 24 sessions of the Girls' Safe Space program, adolescent girls were able to challenge harmful cultural norms and peer pressure. Parents also became more aware of their critical role and responsibilities in caring for their daughters.

Economic empowerment for parents especially women through vocational skills training, business management, baking, start up capital and communal gardens and Village savings loans, have led to economic stability and ensure that parent are able to support their girl child to remain in school.

In addition, CHICOSUDO employed a *Men as Protectors* approach, which led to the participation of 13 men who facilitated community dialogues aimed at challenging harmful cultural practices. As a result of this initiative, traditional leaders took the lead in modifying the *Mganda* initiation ceremony, a key cultural norm.



Projects Highlights: Community Health and disability

As part of its commitment to ensuring that children with disabilities have access to health services, CHICOSUDO expanded its program from a rented premises to a permanent building at a new, accessible location. With support from NASF, CHICOSUDO has constructed a rehabilitation center and provided additional assistive materials for use. Through the support of Abiding Love International Fellowship, CHICOSUDO reaches 45 children and their parents each month, providing them with nutritious food and physiotherapy services.

Additionally, CHICOSUDO now operates from this center as both its office and a venue for capacity-building activities. Currently, the center hosts business management training sessions and other community events, such as under-five clinics and special meetings requested by the community. CHICOSUDO continues to collaborate with Kadidi and Chileka Health Centers and Feed the Children Malawi, which provide health services to children with disabilities and other children in need. Youth and women also receive mental health services as requested. Through these efforts, CHICOSUDO reaches an additional 30 to 40 individuals each month. These are some key highlights of our ongoing work."



a. 45 children with disabilities accessed physiotherapy services, mental health services, and nutritional food on a monthly basis.

b. 150 community members accessed capacity-building sessions.

c. 20 staff members and volunteers accessed office space and capacity-building resources.

d. 3,250 community members were reached with information about mental health and the rights of children with disabilities.

e. 56 children and their parents received relief materials, such as children's bags and clothes.

f. 5 children received assistive materials to use at home.

g. 10 children were supported in receiving health care.



Project Highlights: Partnership with CorpsAfrica

From July 2023 to June 2024, we marked the third year of partnership with CorpsAfrica under the volunteer placement program. The past twelve months have seen even greater impacts, thanks to volunteer John Nkungula. Through this partnership, three projects were successfully implemented, benefiting the community under Group Village Headman Ntonya in Mulanje District. The following are the projects:

1. **Environmental Conservation through Tree Planting:** Over 1,000 trees of various species were planted at Chole Hill and in some households, contributing to local environmental sustainability.
2. **Promoting Menstrual Hygiene Among Adolescent Girls at Mambala Primary School:** Through this project, John reached 100 adolescent girls and their mothers with sexual and reproductive health information. He also distributed reusable sanitary pads made from locally available materials, helping to improve menstrual hygiene management.
3. **Providing Nutrition Education to 250 Community Leaders and Mothers with Children Under Five:** This initiative aimed to empower local leaders and mothers with essential knowledge about nutrition and child health.
4. **Training Community Leaders to Defend Women's Rights:** John worked with community leaders to raise awareness and address harmful cultural norms that perpetuate gender-based violence, empowering leaders to actively promote and protect women's rights."



STAFF MEMBERS

CHICOSUDO is grateful to have a dedicated team that has contributed significantly toward the achievement of its mission and vision. We do not take this for granted. Special thanks go to the Board of Trustees for their continued leadership in policy formulation and capacity building for the staff and volunteers. Their commitment has been invaluable in guiding the organization through its growth and ensuring that we remain focused on our mission.

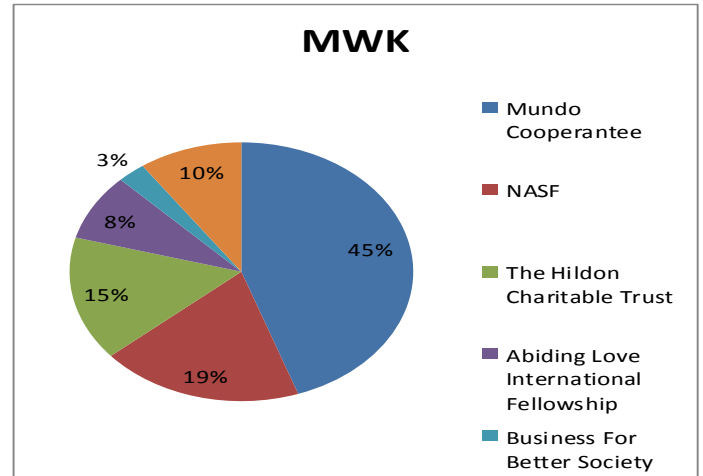


As the year ends, we have had the privilege of training recent graduates in areas such as Community Development, Business Administration, and Financial Accounting. Their dedication has also enabled CHICOSUDO to make significant progress toward achieving its mission. Special thanks also go to Christina, a coach under Business for Better Society, for her commitment to supporting the formulation of CHICOSUDO's strategic plan, which is still in draft form.

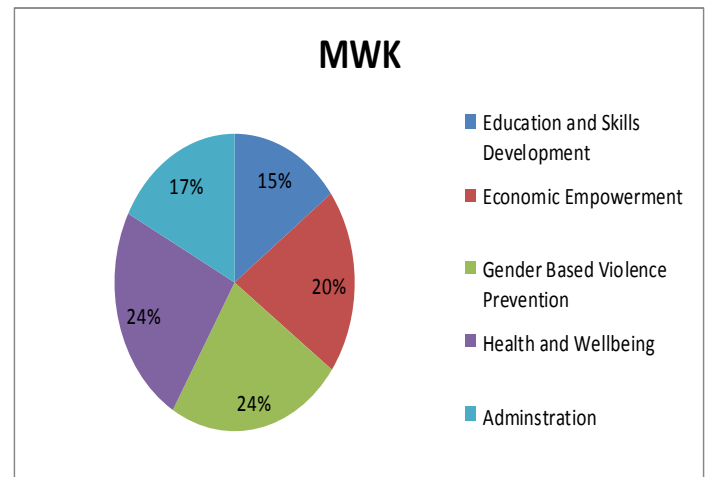


Financial Report

DONOR	MWK
Mundo Cooperantee	28,597,430.00
NASF	12,234,000.00
The Hildon Charitable Trust	9,953,000.00
Abiding Love International Fellowship	5,340,000.00
Business For Better Society	1,700,000.00
CHICOSUDO	6,245,900.00
Total Income	64,070,330.00



Areas Of Focus	MWK
Education and Skills Development	9,400,000.00
Economic Empowerment	12,795,400.00
Gender Based Violence Prevention	15,000,600.00
Health and Wellbeing	15,274,000.00
Administration	9,500,000.00
Total Expenses	61,970,000.00



PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

Looking ahead to 2024–2025, CHICOSUDO will continue to focus on all key priorities, ensuring that we achieve our mission by 2027. The following are the key strategies:"

- Enhance access to quality education and vocational training programs for marginalized women and youth to equip them with skills that increase employability and foster long-term personal and community development.
- Promote economic independence for marginalized women and youth by facilitating access to financial resources, entrepreneurship opportunities, and fair employment pathways.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of marginalized women and youth by ensuring access to essential healthcare services, health education, and mental health support.
- Advance gender equality and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) by advocating for inclusive policies, raising awareness, and providing support services to survivors of GBV within marginalized communities.
- Strengthen the organization's governance, operational capacity, and monitoring systems to ensure sustainability, transparency, and the effective delivery of services to marginalized women and youth.

