

NATIONAL HEAD OFFICE

Holy Heart Centre for Abused Women and Children

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**BACKGROUND**

Holy Heart Centre for Abused Women and Children is a local non-profit organization currently working in Malawi’s southern districts Blantyre and Chikwawa. Holy Heart was established in 2014 to respond to the needs and challenges affecting vulnerable communities in areas of Human Rights in Malawi. We believe that for someone to claim for his/her rights not to be abuse should be natured in and know of all principles of human rights, economic development anti-discrimination anti abuse programs. Our aim is to empower the abused woman and children and reduce their vulnerability exploitation and street kids in various cities of Malawi, engaging proper woman and children friendly HIV/AIDS services to the abused women and children who are in crisis, to provide advocacy support to the clients in their dealing with community agencies and services.

Partnering with local, international and government organizations, our programs focus on improving water, sanitation and healthcare, providing access to good quality education and community awareness and addressing food insecurities through rural agricultural development, while tackling climate change.

Holy Heart is registered under NGO Act number: **MBRS1008446**.

PROFILE Organization Management

Holy Heart is managed by an active ten-member Board of Trustees. It is comprised of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Board Secretary, Vice Secretary, Board Treasurer and Board members. The Board is responsible for providing technical expertise to the Management. The Board holds quarterly meetings to receive financial progress and program reports from the Executive Director, who is the Secretary to the Board. The internal management team of Holy Heart is comprised of the Executive Director, Project Coordinator and Finance and Administration Officer. We also have a number of Project Officers and Field Workers.

* The Executive Director’s role is to ensure the organization is run effectively and the project goals are achieved.
* The Project Coordinator is responsible for managing and monitoring project activities for the interest of all parties.
* The Finance and Administrative Coordinator has responsibility for managing project funds in a professional, accountable and transparent manner.
* The Project Officers and Field Workers are responsible for implementing, facilitating, monitoring and evaluating project

Organogram

### Mission Statement

To provide solutions aimed at securing sustainable inclusive national development as well as representing the weaker populace counting maltreated women and children.

### Vision

Shaping empowered progress astute communities where participation is a right.

OBJECTIVES

* To contribute towards improved equity and access to basic education by implementing policy and investment frame work(PIF)
* To raise awareness through advocacy for a supportive environment of women and children of all kind and other families affected by HIV/AIDS through Sustainable Economic and Agricultural Development.
* To promote sustainable youth Development programs.
* To promote early childhood development and education.
* To improve the living standards of street kids and orphans who take the street and bus deports as their home to stay and sleep by taking them back to school
* To promote human rights
* To provide protected shelter, sustenance medical care and emotional support.

**ORGANIZATION VALUES**

1. **Community Participation:** Communities must be the drivers of the process and participate in all parts of the programs - we believe in giving a hand up not a hand out.
2. **Transparency and Accountability:** We commit to being transparent and accountable in the management of our organization.
3. **Respect For Human Rights :** Equality and respect is vital - we are inclusive to all and do not discriminate on race, sex or religion education or any other division human dignity should not have to be earned
4. **We Are Stewards:** We are stewards of God’s creation who care for the children and women to restore and protect them.
5. **We Are Responsive:** We respond to any life-We are willing to take skilful risks and act quickly. We commit that even in the midst of **crisis, Holy Heart has to work.**

Organization Programs

Holly Heart conducted a number of community based surveys to identify the key issues facing people in Malawi. Evaluating the results of these surveys, our programs focus on four key areas, which are as follows:

1. Community Education
2. Agricultural Development and Climate Change
3. WASH and Health
4. Education
5. Child Rights Advocacy
6. Women Empowerment Programs
7. Youth and teen Mothers program
8. Community Education

Through community education programs we aim to empower the people of Malawi to address the following issues: gender equality and gender based violence, child marriage, lack of power in governance and democracy and inadequate opportunities for youth. By working with community leaders and establishing community committees we will conduct awareness campaigns, provide training and set up a local radio station to ensure access to relevant information.

1. **Gender Equality and Gender Based Violence**

Women are placed in subordinate roles both within the family and society. As a result, women find it difficult, and in some cases impossible, to access and control resources such as land, credit, finance, education and information. Women own less land than men and are in an inferior socio-economic position to them. Therefore, women are not in a position to support themselves and their families independently of their male relatives or partners. This puts them in a vulnerable position to be victims of gender based violence. There is a high number of gender based violence cases in rural areas of Malawi.

**Program Aims:**

* To raise awareness of gender equality and gender based violence within communities.
* To build the capacity of schools and community structures to effectively respond to gender equality and gender based violence cases.
* To empower women and girls with life skills to prevent gender equality and gender based violence at school and community levels.
1. **Child Marriage Prevention**

Young girls are increasingly becoming victims of early and forced marriages. Poverty levels are the main issue, with parents or the girls themselves using early marriage for economic gains. This leads to increased levels of school dropouts and absenteeism among girls.

**Program Aims:**

* To raise awareness on child marriage and child’s rights abuse.
* To empower children with the life skills they need to defend, protect, report abuse and seek redress.
* To empower community structures to effectively respond to child marriage cases.
* To collaborate with village leaders and community groups to combat child marriage.
1. **Youth Empowerment**

The youth (boys and girls) in Malawi bear the biggest brunt in terms of poverty, HIV/AIDS and lack of opportunity within the labour market and indeed the wider economic environment. Malawi Social Economic Profile (SEP 2011) observes the challenges youth are facing in the country which include: unemployment, high illiteracy levels, HIV/AIDS, early marriages, lack of vocational skills, high juvenile delinquencies, discrimination and prostitution. HOLY HEART is committed to improving, educating and advocating for the health of youth in the Lower Shire.

**Program Aims:**

* Establish ‘Health Talk Clubs’ and conduct community awareness campaigns in schools and communities for prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.
* Provide training in business management and life skills.
* Organize and facilitate recreational activities.
* Provide educational materials to youth clubs and link them to training institutions.
* Establish a centre for vocational training.
1. **Community Radio**

Blantyre rural and Chikwawa are remotely located with poor road networks leaving some areas inaccessible, especially during rainy season, resulting in people having no communication except through the radio. A community radio is the most accessible, participatory and effective medium to reach people in rural communities, giving voice to people to air and solve their own problems. A radio station would provide a means to reach more people through awareness campaigns on key issues. Publications would cover a broad range of economic and social issues including: development policy, finance, health, education, gender equality, youth empowerment, environment, trade, poverty, climate change and globalization. We aim to contribute to the health and social wealth of our local community by providing access to a truly independent, community owned and run local radio station.

**Program Aims:**

* Increase community awareness on gender equality, gender based violence, child marriage, youth empowerment and governance and democracy.
* Improve access to local information, community events and entertainment.
* Increase the sense of connectedness in our community between people of all ages, social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
* Provide a forum for engaging in discussions on issues of local, national and international importance.
1. Agricultural Development and Climate Change
2. **Farming Practices**

Blantyre rural is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly as it relates to agriculture and rural livelihoods. In addition, many subsistence farmers lack the resources and training to generate enough income to provide for their families. Lack of adequate farm inputs and irrigation systems mean farmers struggle to produce enough food to sell at market. Given the region’s high vulnerability, significant adaptation efforts are needed to address the critical interface between climate, agriculture and livelihoods at the community level.

 **Program Aims:**

* Improve farming techniques and technologies so farmers achieve better harvests.
* Promote the use of plant resistance crops to reduce food shortages in times of drought.
* Promote better management and storage of food.
* Provide crop management and agri-business training, to ensure farmers can generate an income.
1. **Disaster Risk Management**

The Lower Shire is one of the regions in Malawi that experiences floods and drought almost every year. The heavy rains and floods in January 2015 displaced many communities, leading to increased population density in most parts of the district, a situation that has forced people to exploit well covered land and plant their crops on soils with high erosion rates. The projected climate change scenario in Malawi shows an increase in mean temperature of between 2 and 3ºC by 2050, a decrease in total annual rainfall and water availability and increase in erratic rainfall events.

**Program Aims:**

* Strengthen farmers’ capacity to access and use quality information, training and products in order to adapt to climate change and variability.
* Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to create agricultural innovation systems and planting trees and elephant grass along the river banks
1. WASH and Health
2. **WASH**

Today, one in five people still do not have access to safe drinking water and more than half of the diseases in Malawi are caused by unclean water. Lack of access to improved water and sanitation and poor hygiene behaviors are the principal causes of water-related diseases such as diarrhea and cholera.

**Program Aims:**

* Ensure communities have access to adequate WASH resources.
* Educate communities on hygiene practices, water storage and water rights.
* Mobilize local community resources and elect community water committees.
* Increase awareness on the use of water drainage systems.
* Ensure the District Water Department assists with training facilitators to repair and maintain water points.
1. **Health**

In Malawi there is a lack of access to adequate healthcare. Malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, HIV/AIDS and TB affect many communities. Child mortality rates are high and life expectancy is low. Recurring droughts in the region means many children suffer from malnutrition and stunted growth. People living with HIV/AIDS continue to face stigma and discrimination in accessing Antiretroviral Treatment (ART).

**Program Aims:**

* Train community health workers to provide health education, counselling and care.
* Establish home based care committees and safe motherhood programs.
* Promote HIV/AIDS testing and counselling and ensure patients have access to ART.
* Encourage patients to visit hospitals instead of using traditional methods.
1. Education

Educational institutions in Malawi is often under resourced and teachers lack adequate training. Early childhood education is recognised by many as significant in a child’s development; however, many parents do not recognise its importance. Many community based childcare centres (CBCCs) have little to no resources and the teachers are often untrained. Dropout rates and absenteeism in schools are high as families often cannot afford school fees, uniforms and books. There have been increased rates of school dropouts among girls due to high poverty levels, peer pressure and low self-esteem. There are little resources for adult education and adult illiteracy rates remain high.

**Program Aims:**

* Raise awareness on the importance of early childhood development among parents.
* Educate parents on the importance of education to reduce dropout rates.
* Improve school facilities and ensure schools have access to adequate teaching resources.
* Provide training to untrained teachers to improve standard of education.
* Establish adult education centre to reduce illiteracy rates.

Financial Management

Holy Heart is committed to being accountable and transparent in managing its finances. Holy Heart’s Financial and Administrative Policy adequately guides the financial management, procurement, asset management and other areas related to the proper functioning of the organization. We ensure sufficient procedures and internal controls are in place to guarantee effective financial management. Please see this policy document for more details.