



DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO AFRICA

WHEELS 4 LIFE BIKE REPORT MALAWI



THANK YOU WHEELS4LIFE



PROJECT THEME
“BIKING OUT OF UNTIMELY DEATHS AND POVERTY”
June 2022

ABOUT DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO AFRICA (DCTA)



Direct Connections to Africa established in 2008 is a small nonprofit 501 (c) 3 registered in Malawi works in the areas of education, job development and medical to provide help in the rural poverty stricken areas in Mangochi.

All hope is not lost for poor Malawians living in rural areas as Malawian kwacha has devaluated to 25%. Wheels 4 Life has committed itself to support people in need with Bicycles and Bike Ambulances since 2016. Over 800 Bikes has been distributed in poverty stricken areas around Mangochi district. These Bicycles are playing a huge role in helping to improve access to basic needs and services as education, health care, work and income. Empowering women and girls with Bicycles unlocks their potential and provides; more time and energy to focus in educational pursuits, more safety and confidence on routes to Schools and clinics, greater earning potential and improved standing in the households. Ambulance Bikes also makes a big difference as it is a life saving necessity. Over 300 untimely deaths have been prevented with the use of Bike ambulances. Wheels 4Life have been described by poor Malawians as a tool to save lives, fight poverty and to provide quality education for all.

BIKE PURCHASE

In December 2021, money amounting to \$10, 000 was wired by Wheels 4 Life (Mrs. Carmen) to Direct Connections to Africa account. We exchanged this money at a rate of 1 USD at 725 Malawi Kwacha. A total of K7, 250, 00 was credited on the project account.

On 13th January 2020 DCTA purchased bikes from Mr. Rajesh Patel at Budget Investments. A total of 31 bikes were purchased at the unit price of 98, 000 Malawi kwacha. 11 ambulance bikes were purchased at the unit price of 368, 000 Malawi kwacha.

The grand total for the ambulance and individual bikes was 7, 106, 000 Malawi Kwacha giving us the balance of 144, 000 Malawi kwacha. The balance of 144,000 was used to transport the bikes to its designated place ready for distribution exercise.

BIKE DISTRIBUTION



The distribution of Bikes was held at The Gliswold Center on 15 May 2022. It was a one-day exercise in which, 11 Ambulance Bikes were given to needy villages through their Chiefs, five single Bikes were given to students who travel long distances to school, twenty single Bikes were given to business women who struggle to make ends meet for their families, three Bikes were given to Teachers who live above 15 kilometers from their designated Schools and three Bikes were given to caregivers in the communities.

WHY PEOPLE NEED BIKES

Bikes have helped immensely in the job development areas. Many start businesses transporting their goods to sell to multiple areas. Some churches, organizations, villages check the Bikes out to different people for a few hours at a time since most don't need a bike 24 hours. In summary they have made a huge change in changing and saving lives. Below are some of the confessions from the beneficiaries explaining the importance of these Bikes in their lives and the difference they will make;

Chief Kusanda



I cannot contain the happiness I am feeling at the moment. I believe that every person has a right to fair and equal access to income, education and food. Wheels4Life has provided all that for me and my people through the Ambulance Bicycle that we have received. Health is the most important gift that every human needs in order to acquire all the necessities of life. Wheels 4 Life, we salute and honor the calling you have to help the disadvantaged like us. We recently had an outbreak of cholera which has claimed over 14 lives.

If it was not for the Ambulance Bike that the Neighboring village rented us after we already lost 12 people it could have been worse. Over 20 people recovered after being rushed to receive medical care at the hospital which is located 19 kilometers away from the village. Thank you Wheels 4 Life our life saver.

BIKES USED TO SHORTEN DISTANCE TO SCHOOL



I'm a student who is under Direct Connections to Africa Sponsorship. This Bicycle helps me a lot especially when going to school. I am not tired anymore because I'm no longer walking long distances to get to School. I now have more time to revise my school work. During weekends I use the Bike to fetch water for my disabled mother from the lake which is located 8 kilometers from my house. Life was very difficult for us before I received this Bike. All I can say is thank you Wheels 4 Life for coming to my aid.



My name is Robert William. I come from a very poor background. I'm the first person in our family line to own a Bicycle. This Bicycle helps me and two of my siblings to reach school in good time. We live in a mountainous area and sometimes we only attended school two days a week because we were mostly tired. Catching up with school work was hard because we missed a lot of class lessons and the work load was too much for us to handle. This problem brought about poor grades. Just the thought of going to school was exhausting for me.

Apart from the sponsorship I received from DCTA this bike is the second precious gift I have ever received, thank you Wheels 4 Life I will forever be grateful to you.

BIKE USED TO EMPOWER WOMEN

Amina from Mpemba village in Mangochi district says many people were dying from contaminated diseases like Cholera, Typhoid, Bilharzia and Corona Virus because as health workers we failed reach out to all households and teach them on how to prevent themselves from catching these diseases. We also do provide home based care services but due to travelling challenges we failed to offer our services thoroughly and most households were left out. I am happy because now I can visit more than ten households in a day using the Bicycle. I now have more time to visit the households that are under my care unlike before. Thank you Wheels 4 Life for your support.



My second hand clothes business was not expanding because I used my profits to transport my goods to and from markets. My daily sales were also limited to what I could carry on my back and head. Now, I am able to pack more in each load and return home with enough energy to cook for my family. Being a single parent of six children life was hard. Miraculously Wheels 4Life came to my aid. With this Bicycle I am able to visit more markets to sell my goods. It has enabled me to make more sells in a day and even save time.

I am happy and my children are also happy. Due to the profits I make I am now able to send my children back to school and we don't go to bed on empty stomach like before. I owe all the gratitude to Wheels 4 Life for their support.

A MESSAGE TO WHEELS4LIFE FROM SOME OF THE BENEFICIARIES



We are very grateful to Wheels 4 Life for the great donation given to us. These gifts might be considered small to others but to us you have done a very big thing. As women we face many challenges in our daily lives and to own a successful business is very tough in our male dominated community. These bikes are a stepping stone for us to think outside the box and boost our businesses and live better lives. Most of us have never owned a bike before and for that we consider this as a dream come true and the most precious gift to us. As women, we appreciate this gift so much because it provides help in many areas our lives. We travel long distances to fetch water and firewood. It is not easy to get to our farms which are located over 15 kilometers from our homes and our children attends distant schools where we can drop them off before

going to our businesses. Our daily livelihood depends on these Bikes, they have brought a positive change in our families. Thank you for planting a smile on our faces. We are assuring you that these Wheels given to us will take us miles and we smell big opportunities ahead of us. *THANK YOU CARMEN AND THE WHEELS4LIFE FOUNDATION*

A MESSAGE TO WHEELS4LIFE FROM THE CHIEFS



On behalf of all other chiefs who received the ambulance bikes we are very thankful to receive these life saving necessities. Before being awarded with these donations, we helplessly watched our people die one by one. We have lost young people who could have contributed to the development of our communities. We carried patients in Wheelbarrows to travel a distance of more than 15 kilometers and by the time we get to the hospital it was already too late for the patient. Pregnant women were the most unfortunate because out of ten pregnancies, only 4 babies made it out safely without

complications. Even the youths who were pushing the Wheelbarrows ended up sick themselves due to the heaviness of the Wheelbarrows and the long distance.

Wheels4Life you deserve a special place in heaven for your zeal to help people whom you have never met. Thank you for restoring our peace of mind, now we are able to concentrate our minds on developing our communities and with these Ambulance Bicycles we are assured that our youths will rest their minds on Books and their grades at school will greatly improve. THANK YOU MISS. CARMEN AND THE WHEELS 4 LIFE TEAM.

WHY VILLAGES NEEDS BIKES/AMBULANCE BIKES

Most areas in Mangochi District experience a huge issue with lack of transport to hospitals/clinics. There is one health center which is located at a distance of over 16 kilometers away from the villages and it serves a catchment area of 40,000 people. Because of lack of health services people have to travel vast distances to be seen by a doctor or nurse. Travel to clinics is either by Ox or Wheelbarrow and this is a very slow and tiresome mode of transportation. One in five women die during child birth, these Ambulance Bicycles will help save many lives

Schools are located in mountainous areas. It is not easy for a student to attend School five days a week due to exhaustion after travelling long distances. The Bicycle will help students to improve their performance in class.

Women with small businesses travel long distances to access viable markets and this disturbs their profits. The Bicycles have helped them to grow their businesses and manage to feed their families three meals a day.

DIFFERENCES THE BIKES/AMBULANCE BIKES WILL MAKE AND HAVE ALREADY MADE

Survey has shown that Mangochi District general hospital registered over hundred deaths on a monthly basis due to late arrival at the hospital to access medical care. Since the yearly distribution of Ambulance Bikes, death rate has lowered to 180 a year which is a big change.

All the students who have received the bikes have promised to work extra hard because there is nothing pulling them back. They will improve their grades because the Bikes will make them reach school in good time and no more thoughts of dropping out of school.

Health workers are able move around the communities to provide health care and education on health issues. This has lowered cases of illnesses that results from poor hygiene and ignorance.

The bikes have also empowered less privileged women to think bigger. They will now be able to access viable businesses which they failed to access because of lack of transport. They will now be able to make more profits from their small business because they will not have to spend on transport for the little income they earn like before. There is also room for expansion for the women.

OTHER USES OF BIKES

- For fetching water and firewood
- Used as bike taxi
- Used by health counselors who provides health care in hard to reach communities
- Used by village police who makes sure that there is peace in the villages especially at night they move around the make sure there is no theft.
- Used by teachers

MONITORING OF THE BIKES

To date, over 800 Bikes/Ambulance bikes have been donated to different villages around Mangochi District.

DCTA team has taken the initiative to visit all the bikes/ambulance bikes beneficiaries to make sure that they are good custodians and the bikes are working according to its intended purpose. The community is trained on the maintenance and use of the Bicycles.

Every Chief beneficiary has a committee which looks after the welfare of the ambulance bikes, this includes repairing. We set up monitoring system to sustain the project for long term. Beneficiaries are visited once every month.

APPRECIATION TO WHEELS4LIFE FOUNDATION



As Direct Connections to Africa we value education and we are very committed to supporting the education sector in Malawi. The Bike project is very impressive and we

are very happy with the donations that Wheels 4Life provides to help us fulfill our goal which is to help the poor Malawians in all areas of their lives. We believe that a Bicycle makes a difference in this world and is a huge contributor to achieving the sustainable development goals. Your support has strengthened our bond with different communities around Mangochi District and you have owned a place in the hearts of poor Malawians, you are greatly appreciated. We believe that what you have offered to these needy communities will go a long way in helping them throughout their daily livelihood.

We are eager to continue working with you and under your requirements so that we successfully achieve the aim behind the bike project.

THANK YOU WHEELS4LIFE

CECILIA MARTIN DIRECTOR OF BIKE PROJECT MALAWI

2022 BIKE RECIPIENT LIST

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NO.	NAME	AGE	VILLAGE	REASON FOR THE BIKE	PHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Agnes Memba	28	Kyela	Fish seller	888915306	A. Memba
2	Asiyatu Mustapha	26	Nchocholo	Sells Vegetables	888876009	A. Musiliga
3	Oscar M'bwana	36	Michesi	Sells Mops	960812952	O. M'bwana
4	Asiyatu Amidu	29	Michesi	Sells Cassava and Sweet Potatoes	999863453	A. Amidu
5	Liyedye Pillow	34	Njereza	Sells Flitters	882067553	L. Pilo
6	Emma Willy	31	Makawa	Sells second hand clothes	999974432	E. Willy
7	Joyce Alli	29	Chipoka	Sells Vegetables	996994347	J. Alli
8	Patricia idana	36	Kyela	Sells Mops	956834267	P. Idana
9	Annie Buleya	22	Michesi	Sells Vegetables	996737554	A. Buleya
10	Alinafe Majawa	30	Njereza	Fish seller	888663545	A.
11	Tina James	34	Nchocholo	Sells Mops	988645421	T. J.
12	Chimwemwe Witness	36	Makawa	Sells second hand clothes	988875436	W.
13	Grace Msasa	32	Makawa	Fish seller	999580054	G.
14	Violet Chilimampungwa	28	Chipoka	Primary school teacher	884896555	V. e
15	Isabel Ng'ambi	30	Nchocholo	Fish seller	887577895	I. N.
16	Damiano Kaunda	27	Mgundaphiri	Sells Charcoal	999785643	D. K.
17	Frank Banda	38	Chikowi	Primary school teacher	996364407	F. B.
18	Tione Phiri	30	Makokola	Sells Flitters	888817645	T. P.
19	Pilirani Salimu	38	Michesi	Sells door mats	967588765	P. Salimu
20	Brenda Kayira	31	Mpinganjira	community Policing	886900376	B. Kayira
21	Georgina Chimwaza	28	Mtonda	Sells Fruits	995674326	G. C.

22	Milika Banda	27	Makawa	Fish seller	999955187	Mi
23	Swalei Juma	37	Chikundo	Sells Vegetables	884087555	S. Juma
24	Shadreck Hassan	28	Namiasi	Sells Flitters	888845332	C-H
25	Dyson Mwale	25	Chikundo	Sells Popcorn	889767876	Dyson
26	Patuma Yusufu	29	Michesi	Sells Ground nuts	969809878	Patuma
27	Amina Abasi	26	Makokola	Sells second hand clothes	887895543	Chimwe Mue
28	Anna Majauli	34	Makokola	Fish seller	999485234	Anna
29	Kwayela Khaula	32	Chipoka	Secondary school teacher	997643265	Khaula
30	Halima Majidu	27	Makokola	Sells Ground nuts	999654328	Halima
31	Shakila Kimu	30	Kyela	Sells second hand clothes	998000654	Shakila
32	Annie Chilembwe	Student		A. CHILEMBWE		
33	Aisha Kazembe	Student		Aisha		
34	Robert William	Student		Robert William		
35	Byan Kananji	Student		Byan Kananji		

CHIEFS

1	Queen Mpemba	2
2	Chief Chikomo	
3	Chief Kusanda	
4	Chief Nbungo	
5	Chief Chikundo	
6	Chief Rashid James	
7	Chief Gawa ana	
8	Chief Kapeni	
9	Chief Alubi	

#1 L. W. W.

 JMS

 Kusanda

 Nbungo

 Chikundo

 Rashid James

 Gawa ana

 Kapeni

 Alubi