



DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO AFRICA

WHEELS 4 LIFE BIKE REPORT MALAWI



WE SALUTE YOU WHEELS4LIFE



PROJECT THEME

ELIMINATING POVERTY AND UNTIMELY DEATHS

July 2023



WHO IS DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO AFRICA (DCTA)

Direct Connections To Africa is a small non-profit organization which was established under chapter 501 (c) sub section 3 in Malawi in the year 2008, currently involved in the areas of education, job development, health needs and other social works, mainly targeting the most vulnerable rural population in the district of Mangochi.

In the year 2022, Malawi as a country, experienced tougher times as she went through cholera pandemic which claimed many lives, mostly in rural areas where transportation problems for the sick was inevitable.



However, in areas where Wheels 4 Life bikes and ambulance bikes were provided as a means for transport, the sick were quickly rushed to nearby health centres for quick treatment, thus avoiding many sudden deaths. In February 2023 alone, Malawi had a disastrous Cyclone known as Cyclone Freddy

which destroyed many villages/houses. The bikes and ambulance bikes helped everyone get around for their needs. Bikes help carry out domestic chores.

BIKES DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE

The selection for bikes recipients was done from 08th May 2023 and finalized on 03rd June 2023, where the Director of DCTA Mr. Nick Dumba along with another DCTA representative visited many chiefs to see who was the neediest and needed a bike to turn their lives around. They also visited many villages to see who needed ambulance bikes the most. It turned out to be that many people/villages were very anxious to get these bikes as they are very special here in Malawi. After the identification of beneficiaries, on Saturday 15th July 2023, bikes presentation ceremony was held at the Griswold Education Centre where 48 individual bikes along with 12 ambulance bikes were distributed. There was great excitement around the villages for this special occasion as 44 individual bikes were handed over to the most needy recipients, mostly women, to ease them from struggles they encounter while travelling long distances doing their small scale businesses as they endeavor to make ends meet; another 4 bikes went to girl-students who travel long distances going to school, while 12 ambulance bikes were given to 12 selected chiefs.



BIKES FOR THE NEEDY

Job development area:



It is an opportunity for women bikes recipients who have started small scale businesses such that travelling to various destinations to sell their merchandise is no more a havoc. They even use these bikes as readily available transport to fetch both water and food to distant wells and markets.

To own a bike in Malawi is a special privilege that one cannot afford to miss .The provision of bikes mostly to women and girls, has influenced their undiscovered potential to get unlocked as they realize more time and energy which in turn help them to experience better education pursuits, enhanced safety on routes to schools, easier access to clinical services, greater earnings from small scale businesses, thereby rendering improved living standards in their families. Many women are abandoned by their husbands and left raring many children by themselves. They need to access markets-going from one area to another quickly to sell their items. The bikes help them quite a deal.

Mode of transport:



Mobility from one place to another to perform certain errands such as reporting crimes of every kind to nearby police station as they occur among villagers, is no longer a problem as most communities have been privileged to own Wheels 4 Life bikes. Community policing personnel are finding their job very easy, thanks to Mrs. Carmel.

Education Sector:



Geographically, many schools in Mangochi are located far apart making it difficult for most students to reach their centres for education in time, hence bikes which are presented to them every year have helped so much at alleviating mobility challenges previously faced by most needy students. Here is a story of one of the students sponsored by DCTA bursary:

“I used to travel longer distances going to school by foot hence arrived late for classes and missed some

Lessons quiet often. Today, I am a proud girl in pursuit of my classes full of hope towards achieving better goals in my education. I can foresee a brighter future! Thank you Wheels 4 Life for being there for me.”

The sick in villages:



By providing Chiefs with ambulance bikes, loss of life which used to be order of the day when rushing the sick women from communities to clinics to receive medical attention is a thing of the past. Chief Kela tells a story:

“My village is situated closer to the southern part of Lake Malawi and being one of the densely populated village, my people were affected with the Cholera disease outbreak. I had never been privileged to receive an ambulance bike and my village used to borrow one from our neighboring village of Makawa to ferry my very sick people to a nearby hospital. Very sad that we ended up losing many of my inhabitants due to late arrival of a borrowed ambulance bike. Today, I am a happy village leader because my village owns an ambulance bike which will go a long way in helping us on transport issues. My village and I are so grateful to Wheels 4 Life project as we wish it to stay forever”!

BIKES EASING TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WHEN GOING TO SCHOOL

Aisha Kazembe



is one of the many students who have benefitted from the Wheels 4 Life bikes project and had this to say: *“I am no longer late for classes, I am never ever feeling tired in school; all this because Wheels 4 Life has provided a bike for me to ease transport problem I used to face since I live very far from my school. Long live Wheels 4 Life”.*

WHEELS 4 LIFE-IMPACT ON PEOPLES LIVES

It is a known fact that while the Malawi Kwacha currency continues to plunge, poor rural and marginalized citizens have not been spared the pain as devaluation of the Kwacha becomes the order of day to day life. In order to alleviate transport and transportation problems faced by most needy people when performing their day to day tasks, Wheels 4 Life has continued to support the needy Malawians with Bikes and Bike Ambulances since 2016. Over 900 bikes have been distributed so far in most poverty stricken areas around Mangochi district alone. The bikes are playing a very big role in most rural areas as means for

transport, thereby helping in alleviating many problems encountered while performing other social works. The lady beneficiary explains:

“I am a happy woman and my children are happy too because I use my bike lady bias a mode for transport in my business. I am able to send my children back to school through profits I find after selling my goods. No child in my family is going on an empty stomach again Wheels 4 Life”.

A MESSAGE TO WHEELS 4 LIFE FROM BIKES BENEFICIARIES

As women beneficiaries, we are so grateful to Wheels 4 Life for the donation of these bikes which have gone a long way in alleviating poverty in our villages. Our lives have tremendously improved from a dependent lifestyle to reliable independent citizens for the development of our country.



Through these bikes, we are able to draw water from distant wells; we travel longer distances selling our farm produce thereby realizing enough income to fend for our families. We can go to a maize mill to grind our maize into flour! We also use our bikes as transport to buy essential

domestic items from distant markets too! Thank you very much Wheels 4 Life. Long live Wheels 4 Life!

A MESSAGE TO WHEELS 4 LIFE FROM THE CHIEFS

As chiefs, we are so grateful for the ambulance bikes which we have received because these shall go along way into helping us and our entire villages as transport for carrying the sick to community health centres to receive treatment on time. Most of our communities do not have readily available funds to pay for transport costs whenever need arises. Now it shall be history because of the ambulance bikes donation to us.



We thank you very much Wheels4Life Chief Mpemba Group
Village Head Chiwalo

WHY VILLAGES NEED BIKES AND AMBULANCE BIKES

Life is very tough in rural areas as travelling from one place to another is very difficult due to poor roads

infrastructure. Owning a bike makes mobility to be much easier because bikes can move even in smaller paths. Those villagers who are privileged to own bikes feel very much honoured. Almost all daily domestic chores such as drawing water from distant wells, distant markets visits during market days are performed easily as bikes are used as men for transport.

OTHER USES OF BIKES

- ❖ used by health councellors as transport whenever they are providing health care services to vulnerable masses in the remotest areas;
- ❖ fetching water and firewood;
- ❖ used by community police as they curb lawlessness in communities
- ❖ used as bike taxis to realize income for women who are widows;
- ❖ some teachers who benefited previously from the program use bikes to travel to their work places.

MONITORING OF BIKES AND AMBULANCE BIKES



The word W4L and a number was put on each bike as per picture above, and these numbers correspond with the person who received the bike. In case a bike gets lost, the police and DCTA rep will easily identify who the bike belongs to. Maintenance tool kits for each bike were included in the bikes packages. Bikes are so special and change lives in Malawi such that everyone keeps their bike in good condition and takes protection in their safety.

APPRECIATION TO WHEELS 4 LIFE FOUNDATION

We as DCTA Makawa, Mangochi district, are so grateful as we witness the drastic changes these bikes have made on lives of people in various communities. We hope to continue our work with you since so many more will be needing bikes to help them out of poverty.



Symon Chirwa – outreach representative for DCTA,
Makawa, Mangochi

Students

No.	NAME	SEX	SCHOOL	PHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Martha Kamoto	F	Gracious	0997 326 442	M. Kamoto
2	Aisha Kazembe	F	Gracious	0995 648 106	A. Kazembe
3	Chrissy Kamwaza	F	Orama	0881 513 781	C. Kamwaza
4	Chimwemwe Julius	F	Orama	0996 925 999	Chimwemwe J.

Small businesses

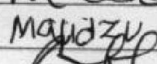
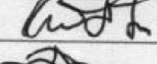

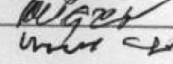
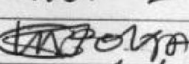

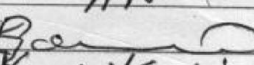
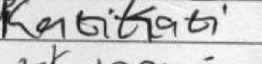
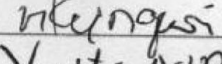
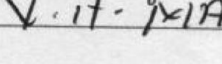
	NAME	SEX	BUSINESS DETAIL	VILLAGE	PHONE NUMBER	SIGNATURE
5	Monica Kabatseng a	F	Fish selling	Chiwalo	0886456746	monica kabatsenga
6	John Kaya	M	Selling fruits	Chiwalo	0996 265 443	J. Kaya
7	Stanely Timothy	M	Selling African medicine	Matayo	0995 696 843	S. Timothy
8	Chrissy Alli	F	Selling cassava and ground nuts	Matayo	0990 244 977	C. ALLI
9	Marriam Makawa	F	Selling chips	Mtemwende	0991013181	m makawa
10	Agness Chikondi	F	Selling second hand clothes	Mtemwende	0987328394	A. Chikondi
11	Shaibu Binamu	M	Small scale farming	Kela	0885 679 840	Shaibu Binamu
12	Mary Missi	F	Selling maize	Kela	0997807397	Mary missi
13	Patuma Asan	F	Suffering from stroke	Matuwi	0885 154 694	P. Asan
14	Lucia Iman	F	Selling ground nuts	Matuwi	0982 527 296	L. Iman
15	Keneth ngwati	M	Selling fish	Mapaliro	0982 668 825	K. Ngwati

16	Amina Sitima	F	Selling firewood	Mapaliro	0988 677 481	A. Sitima
17	Kennedy Kapachika	M	Selling second hand clothes	Chipoka	0884 582 433	Kenedy
18	Magret Peter	F	Selling seedlings	Chipoka	0884 582 433	magileti
19	Ajilu Imulani	F	Selling fruits	Makokola	0997 564 129	ajika
20	Asiyatu Mustafa	F	Selling seeds	Makokola	0997 564 129	A. Mustafa
21	Mary Saidi	F	Selling mops	Makokola	0997 564 129	M. Saidi
22	Emma Wille	F	Small scale farming	Mpemba 1	0991 253 450	E. wille
23	Pelera Lulanga	F	Selling popcorn	Mpemba 1	0991 253 450	P. Lulanga
24	Batiya Usi	F	Selling fish	Mpemba 1	0991 253 450	B. Usi
25	Caroline Mmadi	F	Selling cooking oil	Mpemba 2	0999 887 268	C. Mmadi
26	Mercy Umali	F	Selling ground nuts	Mpemba 2	0999 887 268	m eseyuma
27	Emily Kawinga	F	Selling maize	Mpemba 2	0995 844 181	E. kawinga
28	Teniteni Mbayimba yi	M	Selling firewood	Makawa	0994 725 617	T. Mbayimba
29	Sabiti Malukula	M	Selling fruits	Makawa	0994 725 617	Sabiti
30	Kazembe Selemani	M	Selling different types of seeds	Maudzu	0999 027 898	K. Selemani
31	Florence Chalandir a	F	Selling sweat potatoes	Maudzu	0999 027 898	F. Chalandira
32	Adamson Chipala	M	Selling cassava flour	Katikati	0997 463 331	Adamson
33	Dalitso Bulahimu	M	Selling beans	Katikati	0997 463 331	D. Bulahimu
34	Bolero organisati on		Book delivery in schools	Bolera		the

CHIEFS

	NAME	PHONE NUMBERS	SIGNATURE
35	Chief Chiwalo	0992 000 042	
36	Chief Maudzu	0999 027 898/0999 4 43 664	
37	Chief Matuwi	0999 219 082	
38	Chief Kela	0997 807 397	
39	Queen Makawa	0994 725 617	C. Makawa
40	Chief Mpemba 1	0991 253 450	
41	Chief Mpemba 2	0999 887 268	
42	Queen Makokola	0997 564 129	
43	Queen Chipoka	0999 004632	
44	Chief Mapaliro	0982668825	
45	Chief Mtemwende	c/o 0992 000 042	C. Mtemwende
46	Chief Katikati	0997 463 331	
47	Chief Mikungwi	0994 304 037	
48	Chief Matayo	0882 884 409	V. H. MATAYO

VILLAGES FOR AMBULANCE BIKES

NO.	VILLAGE	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	Chief Chiwalo	Chief Chiwalo	Nelson. Ndela
2	Maudzu	Chief Maudzu	
3	Matuwi	Chief Matuwi	
4	Kela	Chief Kela	
5	Mpemba 1	Chief Mpemba 1	
6	Mpemba 2	Chief Mpemba 2	
7	Chipoka	Queen Chipoka	
8	Mapaliro	Chief Mapaliro	
9	Mtemwende	Chief Mtemwende	
10	Katikati	Chief Katikati	
11	Mikungwi	Chief Mikungwi	
12	Matayo	Chief Matayo	V. H. MATAYO