



A BOLD VISION

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third quarter saw Lydia Action accelerating its delivery on programmes and strengthening its institutional capacity. Over a 100 elderly and 71 impoverished women benefited from various Lydia Action programmes. A hundred and thirty-nine (139) women, seventy-eight (78) primary students and 25 university students were identified and assessed as beneficiaries for Lydia Action programmes. Lydia Action continued to strengthen its institutional capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver on its humanitarian and development programmes through improved planning and strengthening of partnerships and networking with key stakeholders, and resource mobilization.



(insert) **Agness Luwisi**
Eldery Care Beneficiary, Zomba

2. INTRODUCTION

LYDIA ACTION HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR BOLD OBJECTIVE DURING THE QUARTER, BUILDING ON PROGRESS MADE DURING THE PREVIOUS ONE. THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES LYDIA ACTION'S WORK PROGRESS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021.



(Insert) **Hanna Pilingu**
Eldery Care Beneficiary, Zomba

2.1. IMPROVED PLANNING AND EFFICIENCY

Lydia Action revamped its work planning frameworks, restructured programmes and management functions. During the quarter, Lydia Action enhanced its human resource capacity with the recruitment of 7 new staff.

Lydia Action also completed developing its 10-year strategic plan (DREAM30) that will guide its implementation of interventions to achieve its goals and propel the organization's development agenda forward. The strategy is aligned with the Malawi Vision 2063, African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

The strategy further strengthens Lydia Action's ability to set priorities, direct efforts, resources, and ensure that partners and other key stakeholders are working towards successfully achieving government and the organizations' development agendas. Lydia Action also completed the development of 5 organisational policies; Anti-corruption, human resource, safeguarding, procurement and finance policies, to ensure compliance to national standards, statutory legislation and adherence to internal controls for efficiency, transparency and accountability

Lydia Action further established an online financial management system with a three phased review and approval system in financial management. Lydia Action validated its practical commitment to statutory compliance by registering with the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) under its new name. Lydia Action secured a tax clearance certificate to remit relevant taxes applicable by the laws of Malawi under a designated official Tax Personal Identification Number (TPIN).

2.2. STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING WITH KEY STAKEHOLDER

Throughout the quarter, Lydia Action continued to strengthen its coordination with different stakeholders and partners at all levels especially at National level. In its efforts to deliver on our pledge to enable disadvantaged children to fulfil their potential in becoming productive citizens of society through DREAM30, Lydia Action sponsored the first ever Education technical working group on a district level in Malawi. As part of the founding member, Lydia Action supported a pioneering Education technical working group of the Lilongwe District Council.

Further, Lydia Action signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and social welfare through the gender sector office to implement its Women Empowerment (WE) programmes in Malawi.

2.3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Lydia Action continued to strengthen its existing relationship with the European Baptist Mission (IEBM) programmes through better planning, budgeting and reporting. Lydia Action further secured significant funding from a private donor (the Bakat Family) to support women economic empowerment and youth development and leadership initiatives

3. EBM INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

3.1. OUTCOME 1: The livelihood of women and children including the elderly is improved by providing access to nutritious food options and conducive living environments.

During the third quarter, Lydia Action provided care packages to 40 elderlies (35 females and 5 male) from Malonje, New Hope, Chinamwali, Songani, Mikuyu, Naisi, and Msusa communities in Zomba under the southeast region of the Baptist convention of Malawi. Based on feedback obtained from field consultations, Lydia Action provided need-based tailored support.

Lydia Action also provided nutritious food items to 21 impoverished women. The recipients of the care packages, during the third quarter, were carefully selected to include the most indigent, most vulnerable, and those with severe health conditions. Two of the beneficiaries were women living with HIV, caring for child-dependents. In its mission to provide relevant support to beneficiaries, Lydia Action improved its quality of programme delivery on the assortment of care and support packages provided to vulnerable elderlies by consulting qualified government nutrition experts

RESTORING HOPE AND FAITH

Fatsa Kwanaya 85, living in Mikuyu, Zomba with 6 dependents, living in a poorly ventilated grass thatched house, was provided with 20 kgs maize flour, 2 litres cooking oil, 2 Kgs salt, 2 kgs beans carton of 30 tablets of soap commented

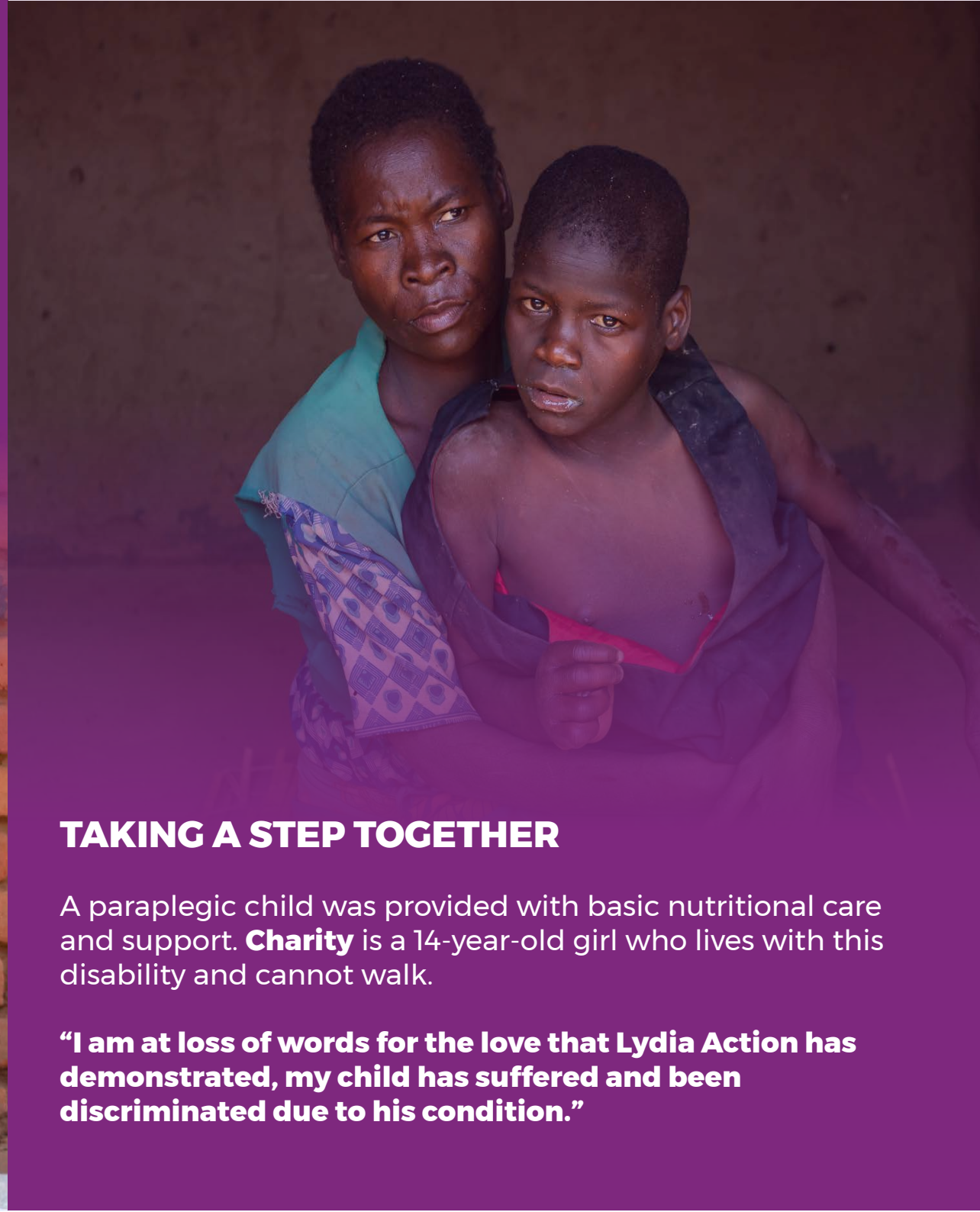
“I am grateful for the support given especially the food as the food I currently had was probably running out tomorrow, so thank you for at least easing my food problem worries”.



BEYOND A PROMISE

Annie Saoneka 82, blind, living in Songani, Zomba being taken care of by her grandchild, was given 20 kgs maize flour, 2 litres cooking oil, 2 Kgs salt, 2 kgs beans and carton of 30 tablets of soap commented

“I am thankful for the support rendered by Lydia Action, with my current condition I have been confronted by several organisations and given promises but none have returned the support. I thank Lydia Action for your support”



TAKING A STEP TOGETHER

A paraplegic child was provided with basic nutritional care and support. **Charity** is a 14-year-old girl who lives with this disability and cannot walk.

“I am at loss of words for the love that Lydia Action has demonstrated, my child has suffered and been discriminated due to his condition.”

3.2. OUTCOME 2: Women's religious and socio-economic welfare is enhanced through capacity building and provision of safe spaces for religious gatherings

During the third quarter Lydia Action, in its commitment to meaningfully involve beneficiaries in the design and implementation of its activities conducted 4 consultation meetings with Tsogolo Lathu, Tikondane, Pindula, and Mgwilizano women's groups in Malonje, Zomba to ensure that relevant support is provided and to promote sustainability.

The meetings were conducted as needs assessment activities in order to identify the unique socio-economic challenges that women undergo on a daily basis in their communities. Thirty-nine (39) women were reached under this activity on a one-on-one basis. Subsequently, the women were trained through 4 separate workshops at Chitukuko hall in Malonje on financial literacy, enterprise development and entrepreneurship. The trainings were facilitated by the government Community Development Assistant (CDA) for Malonje.

UNCOVERING POSSIBILITIES

THOKOZILE LAYA, AGED 38 OF MALONJE ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE TRAININGS REJOICED AND COMMENTED; "I HAVE LEARNT A LOT FROM THESE TRAININGS. IF I HAD THIS KNOWLEDGE BEFORE MY PREVIOUS BUSINESS I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER, AS MY BUSINESS SHUT DOWN AFTER MAKING SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES."

3.3. OUTCOME 3: Children are empowered through educational support and provision of psycho-social needs

The pandemic has had a profound impact on learning for primary school students in the country. Lydia Action has adapted its programmes to ensure that children's education can safely continue. During the quarter, Lydia Action embarked on enhancing the children's education support initiative.

Lydia Action conducted a needs assessment exercise to identify the appropriate specific needs required to address the educational needs of vulnerable children.

The exercises were conducted in 7 schools namely; (Mbidi Primary School and Namisisi Primary School in Mikuyu; Ndangopuma Primary School in Malonje; Matiti Primary School in Mayera; Chikupila Primary in Chinamwali; and Songani Primary School in Songani) in Zomba under the south-east region of the Baptist Convention of Malawi. Following a thoroughly comprehensive assessment exercise, 78 students were identified as beneficiaries under this initiative. Lydia Action also continued payment of tuition fees to 3 needy students at Bandawe Primary, Soche Hill Secondary School, and Pilimiti Community Day Secondary School.

3.4. OUTCOME 4: Women, children, and the elderly affected by sudden emergency onsets are provided with the appropriate assistance

Malawi is still coping with effects of a third-wave infection. This is compounded by a lack of access to basic personal protective equipment to assist preventative and mitigation health measures, putting more people at risk as the restrictions are only partial. The measures are not strictly enforced by the government, and not seriously adhered to by the general population, as evidenced by the fact that people continue to gather in densely populated public crowds.

During the third quarter, Lydia Action supported 62 beneficiaries (40 elderlies, 21 Women, and 1 child) with basic Covid-19 preventative and mitigation items particularly through community sensitization activities and the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as soap, washing buckets, masks and hand sanitizers.

4. ELIZABETH BAKAT PROJECT

4.1. OUTPUT 1: Women in need benefit from self-tailored socio-economic activities

During this quarter, the Elizabeth Bakat Project identified 100 women eligible to benefit under this initiative. The Project is being implemented in the south and central regions of Malawi.

After two (2) consultation meetings with the Zomba District Council, Lydia Action identified 5 villages namely; Ngwelero, Namalima, Issa, Namakhuwa and Dimusa under T.A Ngwelero. In the district. In coordination with the Lilongwe District Council and Chadza Women Forum, Lydia Action identified 2 Village development committees (VDCs) working with 10 villages in the central region.

In T.A Chadza, Lydia Action conducted awareness meetings with 50 women in Chikanga and Mngongwa VDC's on benefits in women's involvement in income generating activities.



(Insert) **Miriam Chiumia** Women Empowerment Programme officer during a workshop at T.A Chadza in Lilongwe.



4.2. OUTPUT 2: Unemployed youth are equipped with practical knowledge, skills, and tools to meaningfully contribute to the humanitarian and development sector

Under the youth development and leadership programme; Lydia Action conducted a meeting with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST) department of higher Education to introduce the programme on a national level with the education technical working group for programme coordination, support and buy-in. Following the meeting, Lydia Action and the Ministry agreed to work on providing technical support to the project.

Subsequently, inception meetings with 5 prospective universities were conducted. The programme targets 25 students from 3 universities totalling 75 students. A Twenty-five (25) Lydia Action Youth Group (LAYG) has been established at the Malawi Assemblies of God University.

5. CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

5.1. Adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

Most of Lydia Action's activities were affected due to the third wave of Covid-19 and corresponding government measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of the pandemic. This affected our ability to plan schedules and effectively reach out to vulnerable individuals and communities as normally intended.

Way forward

Lydia Action will implement activities through innovative interventions ensuring minimum risk of exposure by strictly observing and adhering to government rules on the Covid-19 pandemic. Programmes will strategically be adjusted to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic while still ensuring results.

5.2. Self-reliant mobility

Due to Lydia Action's continued expansion and the lack of dedicated organizational mobility capital resources, the organization continues to rely on public or hired transportation to implement its programmes which poses financial and logistical challenges to flexibly and conveniently deliver on its programmes.

Way forward

A secure and readily available means of transportation will intensify implementation, monitoring and supervision of projects and improve coordination.

6. VOTE OF THANKS

Lydia Action continues to be grateful for the unrelenting support provided by its donors, particularly The European Baptist Mission International (EBMI), The Bakat family and all private donors.

JEREMIAH 29:11 – “FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”

7. EBMI PROJECT 3RD QUARTER INDICATOR UPDATE

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicator	Progress
Outcome 1: the livelihood of women and children including the elderly is improved by providing access to nutritious food options and conducive living environments	Output 1.1: The most impoverished elderlies are provided with care and support	Indicator 1.1: Number of impoverished elderlies supported	40 Beneficiaries
	Output 1.3: Women and children are provided with access to nutritious food.	Indicator 1.3: Number of women and children provided with nutritional support	21 Women 1 Child
Outcome 2: women's religious and socio-economic welfare is enhanced through capacity building and provision of safe spaces for religious gatherings.	Output 2.1: Women are provided with the knowledge, skills, and tools that will enable them to be self-reliant.	Indicator 2.1.2: Number of women provided with appropriate tools	39 Beneficiaries
Outcome 3: children are empowered through educational support and provision of psycho-social needs	Output 3.1: Needy Children are provided with financial and in-kind educational support.	Indicator 3.1.1: Number of children supported with tuition fees	3 Beneficiaries
Outcome 4: women, children, and the elderly affected by sudden emergency onsets are provided with the appropriate assistance	Output 4.1: Tailored support is provided to women, children, and the elderly affected by sudden emergency onsets.	Indicator 4.1: Number of women, children, and elderly provided with assistance	21 Women; 1 Child; and 40 Elderlies

8. ELIZABETH BAKAT PROJECT 3RD QUARTER INDICATOR UPDATE

Outcomes

Output 1: women in need benefit from self-tailored socio-economic activities

Output 2: unemployed youth are equipped with practical knowledge, skills, and tools to meaningfully contribute to the humanitarian and development sector

Activity

Activity 1.1.1: Identification of women in need

Activity 1.1.2: Income generating capacity skills development workshop

Activity 1.1.3: Introspective analysis assessments

Activity 1.1.4: Provision of support for self-tailored socio-economic activities

Activity 1.1.5: Monitoring and supervision visits

Activity 2.1.1: Establishment of strategic partnerships with tertiary education institutions

Activity 2.2.2: Establishment of Lydia Action Youth Group

Activity 2.2.3: Skills Capacity building workshops

Activity 2.2.4: Strategic placement of Youth group members into relevant professional work environments

Activity 2.2.4: Monitoring and supervision visits

Indicator

indicator 1.1: Number of women provided with income generation capacity skills

indicator 1.2: Number of women that successfully implement their self-tailored socio-economic activities

indicator 2.1: Number of students participating in Lydia Action Youth groups

indicator 2.2: Number of youth placed in professional work environments

Progress

- 50 Beneficiaries

- 0 Beneficiaries

-0 Beneficiaries

-0 Beneficiaries

9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT (JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021)

DONATIONS	JUL-SEPT-2021
Balance brought down	290,900.00
Donation Received from EBMI	5,005,000.00
Donation Received from EB	11,000,000.00
TOTAL DONATIONS	16,295,900.00

PROGRAMME EXPENSES

	AMOUNT
Administration	2,652,874.34
Children	1,542,200.00
Elderly Care	1,845,455.05
Relief	1,975,763.64
Women	3,486,886.36
Youth	3,084,390.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	14,587,569.38

Excess of income over expenditures	1,708,330.62
Prepaid Bills-(Rent for October to December 2021)	1,110,550.00
BANK BALANCE	597,780.62

All figures in monetary references are in Malawi Kwacha (MK)

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