



# THE **PURPLE** MOVEMENT

3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER REPORT  
2023



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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a country currently experiencing significant challenges including soaring cost of living due to among other factors foreign currency shortage, fuel scarcity, and, continual depreciation of the local currency (The Malawi Kwacha), Lydia Action undeterred by the adversities has in the third quarter of 2023 (July to September 2023) shown commendable resilience in its efforts to empower women, take care of the elderly, and, enhance education opportunities to underprivileged learners.

In the third quarter Lydia Action successfully trained 35 women in Gender Based Violence, equipping the participants with valuable skills to overcome socio-economic barriers. Additionally, Lydia Action organized four Elderly care training workshops reaching out to 43 caregivers in recognition of the importance of addressing the needs of the aging population. Moreover, the organization distributed education support items to 40 beneficiaries, in continuance of its efforts of making positive impact on the lives of marginalized individuals.

Lydia Action further underwent rigorous institutional strengthening regarding policies, partnerships as well as reconfiguring the leadership and taking on board additional volunteers.



**Winiko** - Zomba DC Social Welfare DPT





**Maulana** - Lydia Action  
Programmes officer



## 2. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, compliance, human resources, resource mobilization, strategic leadership and partnerships



**Mrs Zoya** - Zomba DC Social Welfare  
assistant Community Development Officer

## 2.1 Sustained and strengthened partnership with Malawi Government

In its operations in South-East Malawi this quarter, Lydia Action collaborated with Zomba District Council, especially the Council's Social Welfare Department. The collaboration led to Mrs Pauline Zoya an assistant Community Development officer from Zomba DC's Social Welfare department in facilitating the Women Economic Empowerment GBV training workshop, and, Mr Winiko also from Zomba DC's Social Welfare department facilitating three elderly caregivers training workshops. Furthermore, Lydia Action notified the Zomba District Education Management Office (DEMO) before beginning all of its planned education Support operations for the third quarter.

## 2.2 Compliance

In August 2023, Lydia Action fulfilled the legal mandate required by every NGO in Malawi by paying annual fees to The Non-Governmental Organizations Regulatory Authority (NGORA) to register and maintain its legal standing as an affiliate of NGORA. NGORA was established as a statutory body by an act of Parliament, the NGO (Amendment) Act 2022, with the mandate to register and regulate the operations of all NGOs in Malawi. As a government agency, NGORA is under the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare.

## 2.3 Strengthening Partnerships with other local NGOs

In August 2023, Lydia Action entered into a partnership with a fellow local, Youth-led NGO, Change4us Malawi. Through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two organizations, the partnership will mainly focus on efforts to address social and environmental issues through joint initiatives, resource sharing and collective efforts.

Additionally, through the help of Zomba District Council in the month of August 2023, Lydia Action collaborated with Malawi Network of Older Persons (MANEPO). MANEPO is a consortium of over 60 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) implementing various programs meant to protect the rights of the elderly in Malawi. This collaboration led to Miss Maria Masiye, MANEPO's project officer facilitating the Elderly Care training workshop at Jali on the 16th of August 2023.

## 2.4 Continued Institutional Strengthening

In its efforts to ensure the realization of Dream30, and, effective and efficient delivery of its' objectives and goals, in the quarter Lydia Action brought in Mrs. Thokozani Mulauzi as the new Deputy Executive Director. Furthermore, four volunteers were brought onboard. Mr. Brian Kumwenda was brought in as a Human Resources Officer, Ms. Thokozani Chitatanga was given the position of Monitoring and Evaluation officer and Mr. Hastings Msoosa as a Digital Media Communications Officer. In an effort to raise more funding, in the quarter. Lastly, Lydia Action brought in Mr. Gwambe as a Resource Mobilization Consultant. Mr Gwambe comes in with over 15 years of experience in Resource Mobilization in the non-profit sector.

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Lydia Action also completed the development of various organizational policies such as the Digital Media Communication strategy, and, also established Terms of References (ToRs) for Senior Leadership to ensure compliance and adherence to internal controls for efficiency, transparency and accountability.

## 2.5 Challenges

- Increased organization operational costs due to deteriorating economic conditions straining budgets and use of resources.

## 2.6 Way Forward

- Continued engagement with strategic stakeholders such as the government and donors on resource mobilization and partnerships in implementing projects



### **3. EUROPEAN BAPTIST MISSION INTERNATIONAL (EBMI)**

Sharing God's transforming love  
that people live in hope





## 3.1 ELDERLY

**Outcome 1:** The livelihood of the elderly is improved by providing access to conducive living environments, rights to dignity and protection.

### 3.1.1 A SUPPORTING HAND

**“I joined the Chinamwali Elderly Care Support group with a genuine interest in serving the elderly population and a desire to make a positive impact in their lives”**

Mercy Asani., a 37-year-old wife with six children coming from Kalimba Village, GVH Chopi, T/A Malemia is one of the ten members of Lydia Action's Chinamwali Support group. In August 2023, Mercy and fellow Chinamwali Support group members went through a Lydia Action Elderly caregivers training workshop facilitated by Mr. Charles Winiko, Community Development Officer from Zomba District Council Social Welfare department.

Having completed the caregivers training, Mercy embarked on a volunteer journey to provide support to three elderly individuals who are Lydia Action's Elderly Care Program beneficiaries residing in her community. After identifying the specific needs of each individual as she was taught at the trainings, Mercy with support from her husband procured necessary items, including soap, salt and rice. She meticulously ensured the quality and appropriateness of the items before delivering them to the respective elderly individuals.

“Most times we were waiting for Lydia Action to give us items to distribute to the beneficiaries, however, at the training we were taught that as support group members, we are volunteers who can take personal initiative to help the elderlies. I hope my actions can encourage other caregivers in my group to take personal initiatives to help the elderlies within the community” Mercy Asani.



**Mercy** - from Kalimba Village ,Zomba



**Malita** - from Namakoka Village, Zomba

### 3.1.2 A TALE OF COMPASSION AND GRATITUDE


Malita Chingolopiyo aged 71, is one the Elderly care program's beneficiaries, residing in Namakoka Village, GVH Jali, T/A Mwambo. Worn by time, Malita has seen her fair share of struggles throughout her life. However, even in old age, she still faces numerous challenges, ranging from physical ailments to financial struggles and this year in March, her small house collapsed due to the Cyclone Freddy.

In response to Malita's situation in July 2023 the Lydia Action's Minjale Support group lead by Anne Nkwenzalamba mobilized resources to cover Malita's needs. The support group provided Malita with 7 Kgs of Maize flour, salt, soap, and, to help in the rehabilitation of her house, the group provided nails, roofing paper and 1,700 bricks. The rehabilitation of the house is expected to begin late September 2023 and be completed by end of October 2023.

In meeting Lydia Action's staff on 7th September 2023, Malita expressed her gratitude "I am truly grateful for all your support and kindness. The support rendered means more to me than words can express. With the soap. I am able to keep myself clean, and the bricks will allow me to build a safer and sturdier house".

Anne Nkwenzalamba, the Minjale support group leader took a moment to personally thank Lydia Action "We cannot overlook the critical role Lydia Action has played in our Elderly Care Support Group". The caregivers training has further equipped us with the necessary skills and knowledge to take care of our elderly care community members.





I am truly grateful  
for all your support and  
kindness. The support  
rendered means more to  
me than words can express.

### 3.1.3 THE PROGRAMME

Lydia Action in the month of August 2023 intensified its Elderly Care Support Programme. In collaboration with Zomba District Council and Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organization (MANEPO), Lydia Action conducted four elderly care givers training workshops reaching out to four elderly care support groups: Minjale, Chinamwali, Mayaka and Mikuyu Support groups in 4 T/As namely Malemia, Mwambo and Chikowi. In total 43 care givers were trained of which 81 percent are women and 19 percent men.

Upon consultations with Zomba District Council, the first workshop was facilitated by MANEPO project officer Miss Masiye whilst the rest being facilitated by Mr. Winiko, Zomba DC Community Development officer. At the workshops, the participants were equipped with necessary knowledge on how to better address issues such as Nutrition, Sanitation and Hygiene, and related Gender aspects affecting older persons. Furthermore, the participants were equipped on how to curb the issues of prejudice and discrimination against the elderlies in their respective areas.

Additionally, through Minjale Support group (8), Chinamwali support group (3) and Mikuyu Support group (5), Lydia Action distributed care packages to 16 beneficiaries. The elderlies received soap, salt and maize flour.

### 3.1.4 Limitations

- The facilitators noticed low levels of literacy amongst the caregivers which negatively affects the comprehension of their roles as care givers
- Less coordination at the local level between the support groups and local government structures
- Lydia Action is unable to tailor the program to respond to pertinent needs such as the food crisis affecting its communities due to the effects of Cyclone Freddy. Last year's harvest was mostly washed away. In one of the field visits, it was reported that one of our beneficiaries went 2 days without eating anything. Unfortunately, direct food support requires more funding.

### 3.1.5 Way Forward

- Continual support towards the elderly and engagement with the support groups and linking them with local government structures especially Area Development committees and Village Development Committees in their respective areas
- Lydia Action will intensify partnerships and continue to mobilize resources with potential donors to address food insecurity issues with other donors



## 3.2 WOMEN

**Outcome 2:** Women's religious and socio-economic welfare is enhanced through capacity building and provision tools that will enable them to be self-reliant and safe spaces for religious gatherings

### 3.2.1 TOGETHER AS ONE

**“The lessons from the GBV training workshop have made my husband to take a keen interest in my business.”**

Annet Adamu, a 35-year-old wife, mother of three and native of Simiyoni village, Group Village Headman (GVH) Chopi of Traditional Authority (T/A) Malemia in Zomba district was one of the 35 women who took part in the Lydia Action's GBV training workshop in August 2023.

After learning about how poverty and social norms are some of the leading causes of GBV in the country, Annet took it upon herself to share some of the lessons with her husband. Upon deliberation with her husband on GBV and its effects on Women Economic Empowerment Annet's husband was compelled to take a keen interest in his wife's business. As a means to make sure that his wife is empowered Mr. Adamu topped up Annet's business' capital with MK 20,000.

“My husband was brought up with the belief that as a man he is the one who is supposed to be providing for our family's needs. However, after talking to him about the lessons from the [GBV] training he has had a change in attitude about my business. He has not only increased my capital but he is now also allowing me to contribute to the needs of the family with some of the business's proceeds”



**Annet** - from Simiyoni Village, Zomba District



### 3.2.2 GOING AGAINST THE NORM

The Pindula Women Economic Empowerment composed of 10 members is one of four Lydia Action's WEE groups in Malonje. T/A Malemia Zomba. All Pindula group members participated in the Lydia Action's GBV training workshop in August. The training equipped group members with knowledge on identifying, addressing, and reporting different forms of GBV. Empowered with this knowledge, they were prepared to take action against any incidences of GBV transpiring in their community

Following the training the Pindula women group uncovered a distressing case of GBV against a widower within their community. The widower, whose identity remains confi-

dential for privacy reasons, found himself victimized by his deceased wife's relatives, who unlawfully seized all of his wife's property upon her passing. Drawing upon their training, they understood the significance of reporting this GBV incident to advocate for justice and protect the rights of the widower.

The Pindula group reported the matter to the local authorities including their community's chief. Upon deliberation on the matter the widower's plot of land was returned to him. "In challenging the prevailing social norms regarding GBV, we hope to inspire others to join the struggle for gender equality and justice" said the group's leader Fostina Gama.



**The Pindula** - Women Economic Empowerment group from Zomba District



### 3.2.3 THE PROGRAMME

During the third quarter of 2023, Lydia Action in collaboration with Zomba District Council conducted a two-day Gender Based Violence (GBV) training workshop at Ndangopuma Baptist Church in T/A Malemia, Zomba. Participants at the workshop were 35 women who are beneficiaries of Lydia Action's WEE program hailing from 3 villages namely Malonje, Simiyoni and Kuwilalani all under Group Village Headman Chopi.

The main purpose of the workshop was to enlighten the participants on GBV and on how GBV directly affects Women Economic Empowerment. Participants were trained on the types and main causes of GBV in Malawi. Furthermore, the participants were also equipped with knowledge of business management in the face of GBV. Lastly, the participants were taught the practical know how of what to do when one or more group members experience some form of GBV.

### 3.2.4 Limitations

- Illiteracy: The GBV training program revealed that the majority of participants had low literacy skills, which has an adverse impact on how GBV concerns are understood and also contributes to bad business management
- Little Funds: Due to high inflation and depreciation of the Malawi currency the WEE program is being derailed with lack or little funds to provide for business loans to the women groups.

### 3.2.5 Way Forward

Lydia Action will revamp the WEE groups and continue to monitor the progress of the women beneficiaries' businesses. Furthermore, Lydia Action will incorporate Gender equality issues in the WEE program







## 3.3 CHILDREN

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

### 3.3.1 PSLCE RESULTS

In May 2023, 11 beneficiaries of the Lydia Action's Education Support Program sat for the National Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations (PSLCE). On 15th August 2023, it was announced by the Malawi National Examinations Board (MANEB) that out of 267,330 learners who sat for the PSLCE, 234,644 passed, representing an 87 percent pass rate. All 11 Lydia Action beneficiaries who sat for the PSLCE passed the examinations representing a 100 percent passing rate, and, furthermore, 10 of the 11 (91%) have been selected to Government Secondary Schools (2 Boarding, 8 Community Day Secondary Schools).

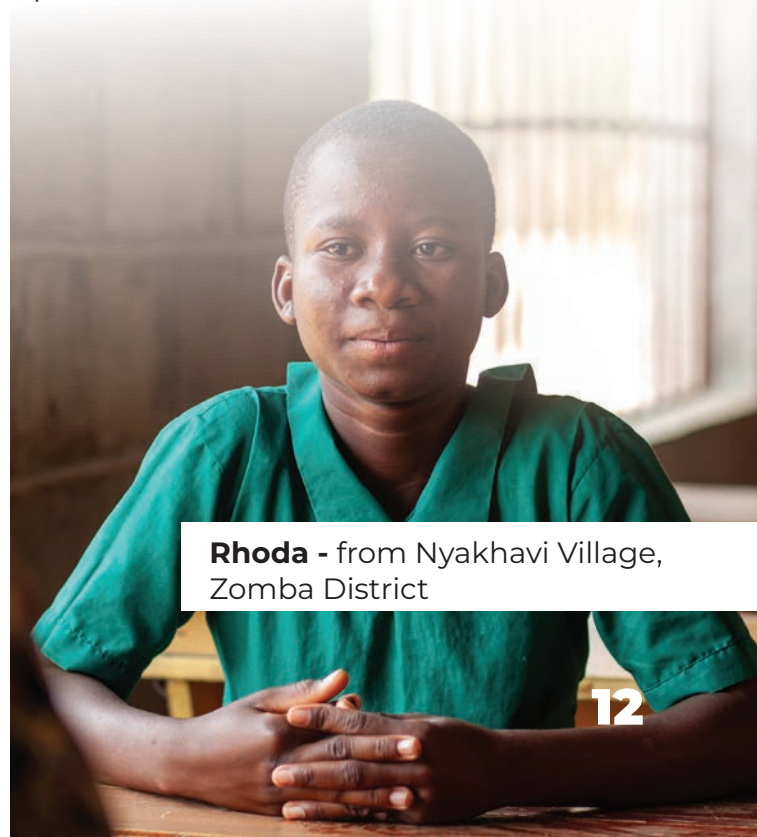
### 3.3.2 A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

Rhoda Pilingu is a 14-year-old girl who has just been selected to continue her studies at Masongola Secondary School after excelling in the 2023 Malawi Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations. Rhoda who sat for the PSLCE at Ntonda Primary School, Jali, Zomba District in May 2023 hails from Nyakhavi Village, Group Village Headman Jali of Traditional Authority Mwambo in Zomba District. She is the first born in a family of three being raised by her parents who are both unemployed. making ends meet through maganyu (casual labour).

In 2021 whilst in Standard Six, Rhoda was one of 10 pupils at Ntonda Primary who were selected into Lydia Action's Education Support Program. With the help of the program, Rhoda's academic journey started to take a positive turn. The additional support and resources she received through the program such as pens, exercise books and mathematical instrument made a significant impact on her grades, boosting her overall confidence and motivation.

Over the next two years, Rhoda's grades improved rapidly. She improved from being in the bottom 30 of a class of sixty to being a main stay in top three. This year Rhoda in Jali Zone Mock Examination which comprises of 8 Primary Schools and over 480 students, Rhoda finished number 7. To top it all when she sat for the national PSLCE she passed with five distinctions

and four credits and was duly selected to Masongola Secondary School Rhoda herself could not contain her excitement upon being visited by Lydia Action's Education Support Programme in September 2023. She beamed with pride, stating. "The Lydia Action Education support program has opened doors I never thought possible. The support did not just lead to me improving my grades but also instilled in me the belief that I am capable of achieving great things. I am grateful beyond words". Rhoda dreams of one day becoming a police officer.



**Rhoda** - from Nyakhavi Village, Zomba District



### 3.3.3 UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

Petro Mattias is a 15-year-old who has just been selected to Mulunguzi Secondary School in Zomba City. Petro originates from the village of Chiwondeka, Group Village Mwembele in the Traditional Authority Chikowi, Zomba. He is the first born in a family of three being raised by his single mother.

In 2021, Petro was selected as one of the beneficiaries of Lydia Action's Education Support Program while he was in standard six at Nathupi Primary School. As a beneficiary of Lydia's education support Petro was provided with basic education materials such as notebooks and pens. The support allowed Petro to complete his primary school education and lessened the burden on his mother to cater for his education basic needs.

Petro repeated classes 3 and 4 because of the lack of basic education materials which negatively affected his progress but upon receiving support from Lydia Action's Education support programme, his grades improved tremendously. In the last two years Petro maintained top five position in his class. In 2023 Mayaka Zone Mock Examination which comprises of 7 Primary Schools and over 300 students Petro finished number five.

Upon seating for the national PSLCE Petro passed with 4 distinctions and 5 credits. With gratitude and ambitions to end the poverty cycle in his family, Petro is looking forward to starting his secondary school journey, "The [Lydia Action] support has truly been a blessing in disguise for our family. Thanks to this program I have a chance to break the cycle of poverty and make school difference in my community".

**Petro** - from Chiwondeka Village, Zomba District



### 3.3.4 THE PROGRAM

During the third quarter of 2023, the EBMI children's programme supported 40 needy pupils. Out of the pupils supported, 40 percent were male and 60 percent were female. The students supported are from four primary schools namely, Mbidi, Namisisi, Nathupi and Matiti under three T/As namely Nkagula, Chikowi and Mwambo in Zomba District.

The pupils were supported with a package of learning materials that included Exercise's books, a set of mathematical instruments, pens, and pencils.

### 3.3.5 Challenges

- Despite receiving school supplies, it was found that most pupils lacked imagination for a brighter future mainly because they have not been exposed to much in life. The majority of the pupils were born and are being raised in rural locations, and the only role models they have are Police officers, teachers, and chiefs. As a result, the pupils have lower expectations for what they can accomplish in life.
- One of Lydia Action's beneficiaries at Namisisi Primary school dropped out and entered into an illegal child marriage at the age of 15.

### 3.3.6 Way Forward

- Lydia Action will continue to support the underprivileged pupils and explore opportunities to partner with other organizations and stakeholders to provide school trips for the pupils in order to expose the pupils to a world beyond their remote locations. Furthermore, Lydia Action will coordinate with Zomba District Council Social Welfare department on the matter of underage marriages in its impact communities.
- The Lydia Action girl beneficiary that got married and dropped out of school lived together with her grandmother. There is a need to conduct a wellness check at household level. Appropriate action such as integrating the grandmother into Lydia Actions Elderly Care program can be considered following the investigation.
- The village head will need to lead in locating the girl and once the man/boy who took the girl as his bride is identified, he will need to be reported to the nearest police in the area as Malawian Law dictates.



## 3.4 CYCLONE FREDDY: LIFE AFTER CAMPS



**Catherine** - from Namakoka Village, Zomba District

### 3.4.1 UNBREAKABLE

Catherine Nyalapa, is a 43-year-old wife, mother of three and is currently staying in Namakoka Village, GVH Jali, T/A Mwambo. After her family's house partially collapsed due to the impact of Cyclone Freddy on the 16th of March 2023, Catherine and her whole family took shelter at Ntonda Camp on the next day. Lydia Action staff visited Catherine and all Cyclone Victims that were camping at Ntonda Camp on the 22nd of March 2023 where they distributed Maize flour, Soya, Cooking Oil, Sugar and Salt.

By Mid-April, a decision was made to disperse the camp. However, four families, including Catherine's remained at the camp until the end of April because she and her family had no oth-

er place to stay. At an attempt to restore their lives, Catherine and her family are now staying with her aunt whilst Catherine and her husband are doing maganyu (Casual labour).

"From the casual labour that my husband and I have been doing we have raised enough money to buy bricks for the rehabilitation of our house. The rehabilitation of our house is expected to be finished by next month". Although, times have been hard, Catherine still remains optimistic for the future "I am hopeful that this year we will have good rains and from that we can have a good harvest which will put our lives back on track"





**Rosta** - from Binali Village,  
Zomba District

### 3.4.2 RISING FROM THE RUINS

Rosta Mafulani, a 34-year-old single mother residing in Binali Village, GVH Nsonkho, T/A Chikowi faced the wrath of Cyclone Freddy which swept through her village in the morning of 12th March 2023. The cyclone razed her house to the ground, leaving her homeless and vulnerable. On 14th March 2023 Rosta sought refuge at Tikondane CBO camp where Lydia Action staff visited Rosta and all Cyclone Victims at the Camp on 14th April 2023 where they distributed Maize flour, Soya, Cooking oil, Sugar and Salt.

Rosta stayed at the camp until June 2023

when she allocated temporarily to a partially collapsed house at her uncle's compound. At present, Rosta is surviving on casual labour, which offers her meager income to sustain her small family. She has shown exceptional strength and adaptability by taking up any work that she can find, striving to ensure a stable future for herself and her child.

"I never thought my life could change so drastically in just a few hours". However, despite all she has gone through Rosta remains resilient and hopeful for a brighter future. Reflecting on her experiences, she states, "I have learned to be stronger not only for myself but for my child as well. I am determined to provide a safe and secure environment for me and my child".





### 3.4.3 THE RESPONSE

Tropical Cyclone Freddy, one of the most powerful and longest-lasting storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere ravaged Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi for more than five weeks in February and March 2023. Communities suffered heartbreaking destruction as a result of the loss of lives, houses, and possessions. The storm was most severe in Malawi where it caused mudslides and flooding that killed over 1,000 people and displaced over 695,000 people. In response to the cyclone, Lydia Action in collaboration with the Malawi Government through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA), the European Baptist Mission International (EBMI), Lydia Ministries and other well-wishers in March and April 2023 purchased and distributed relief items to 30 campsites of cyclone Freddy victims in 5 T/As of Zomba: T/As Ngwelero, Nkagula, Mwambo, Malemia and Chikowi. In the 30 campsites, Lydia Action reached out to 5,615 beneficiaries with maize flour, cooking oil, salt, sugar, soya pieces and soap which were distributed per camp.

The government through DODMA made a declaration to close all camps by the 17th of April 2023, however, due to insufficient support in the reallocation, the closing of camps program was finally completed in July 2023. Due to the magnitude of the Cyclone, the victims are still struggling to recover from its impact. Most victims still lack proper housing and are struggling to find resources for rehabilitation of their houses.

At a national level, the government with support from development partners is implementing long-term resilience building and infrastructure policies. These policies encompass a broad range of areas, from sustainable land and water management practices to climate adaptation strategies.

### 3.4.4 CHALLENGES

Limited resources to respond to the reallocation from the camps of the Cyclone Freddy victims.

### 3.4.5 WAY FORWARD

Lydia Action will continue to follow up on the victims of the cyclone, including those who were in camps where Lydia Action distributed relief items.





## 4. PROGRESS



### ELDERLY

# 43

Caregivers, 16 elderlies



### WOMEN

# 35

Women Reached



### CHILDREN

# 40

Children Reached

## 5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### PROGRAMME EXPENSES

PROGRAMMES	AMOUNT
ADMINISTRATION	1,333,849.81
CHILDREN	1,101,000.00
ELDERLY CARE	1,261,200.00
WOMEN	959,500.00
LYDIA MINISTRY	920,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,575,549.81</b>

Please note that this statement is abbreviated.  
All monetary references are in Malawi kwacha (MK)

## 6. LYDIA MINISTRY

### 6.1 Pastor's Widows Annual Meeting

Lydia Ministry organized a zonal annual meeting with pastor's widows from the 8th to the 9th of September where Umodzi women met at a primary school in Minjale in Zomba District. There were 9 widows present at the meeting. The widows were given an opportunity to share their problems and their appreciation to Lydia Ministry for including them in their ministry activities. They all appreciated the financial help of MK5,000.



.....

"I NOW WILL BE ABLE TO BUY A BASIN OF MAIZE AND MAKE FLOUR AND BRING HOME TO EAT. I OFTEN RELY ON HELP FROM SOMEONE WHO SHARES WITH ME THE FLOUR"

Said one of the pastor widows.

### 6.2 The Programme

Lydia Ministry is a sister organization to Lydia Action and Lydia Knowledge under the Lydia Foundation Family. The organization's overall goal is to provide Christian Counselling, Hope and Transformation. The Ministry implements a heart to heart group counseling programme for the widows.

### 6.3 Challenges

The common problems mentioned were related to food insecurity.





## 7. VOTE OF THANKS

In a time of global crises, uncertainties and economic instability, Lydia Action thanks the European Baptist Mission International (EBMI) for its's continued support to the vulnerable communities of Malawi.

**Joseph Banda**

Interim Executive Director

[www.lydiaaction.org](http://www.lydiaaction.org)

A better world  
for **everyone.**



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