



## Reach Out for Life

P.O. Box 220

Soche

Blantyre 4

Malawi.

Email: [teamreachout2@gmail.com](mailto:teamreachout2@gmail.com)

Phone: +265 (0) 992118114

### ACTIVITY REPORT: Talandira Children Center Updates-School Uniforms, Youth Programs, and Kitchen Construction.

#### 1. School Uniform Support Initiative

School uniforms play a crucial role in improving attendance, confidence, and a sense of belonging among students. Research indicates that uniform provision can increase school enrollment by up to 15% in underserved communities (Unicef).

The center has made significant progress in ensuring that children have access to school uniforms, a critical factor in improving school attendance and confidence. Currently, the 60 children at the center now have uniforms, thanks to previous fundraising efforts and donor support, special thanks Chris Hamer and World Citizens Association Australia. However, at least 40 children are remaining and still lacks uniforms, which may hinder their full participation in school activities. These numbers are like this due to dropping out of 35 children from the new term which just started.



Children happy in their school uniform



Few to go

- **Current Status:**

- 60 children now have uniforms.
- 40 children still need support (estimated cost: MWK 1,500,000.00).



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## **2. Youth Empowerment & Skills Development Program**

Youth unemployment remains a critical challenge in Malawi, with over 20% of youth aged 15-24 not in education, employment, or training programs (World Bank). Our program addresses this by reintegrating youth into formal education and providing vocational training.

Our youth program continues to make a meaningful impact, particularly for school dropouts and those in need of alternative education pathways. While we have successfully reintegrated some (8) youths back into formal schooling, we are also investing in vocational training to provide sustainable livelihoods.

### **Key Highlights:**

- **Tailoring Program:**

- Currently we are supporting two youths (one male and one female) in a fully funded tailoring program. Their names are Steven Namatcha and Liveness Kenedy.
- This initiative is critical as it provides employable skills for those who may not return to formal education. We believe the next set of uniforms will be done by our own youths. The training of these two youths will cost us Mwk1,300,000.00 for the next 6 months which will support training and purchasing of sewing machines.

- **School Reintegration:**

- Eight (8) youths have been convinced to return to school.

- **Upcoming Skills Training Programs:**

- Soap Making Training for 5 youths (planned for the first week of June).
- Welding & Motor Vehicle Mechanics enrollment for 4 youths (in partnership with local shops/garage centers) in near future.

### **Challenges & Needs:**

- Sustained funding for vocational training programs.



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- Monitoring mechanisms to track youth progress in both school and skills training. (We need to at least purchase bicycle, computer and Wi-Fi for the Youth Club officer to be able to visit all project sites and for monitoring and reporting).

### 3. Kitchen Construction Progress

A functional kitchen is essential for food safety, nutrition, and operational efficiency. The new kitchen will ensure hygienic meal preparation for all children and youth at the center.

The construction of the center's kitchen is nearing completion, which will significantly improve meal preparation efficiency and hygiene standards.

- **Current Phase:** Close to final stages (roofing, plastering, and fitting).
- **Expected Completion:** By end of June/July.
- **Impact:**
  - Enhanced food safety and storage.
  - Improved capacity to serve meals to children at the center.





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The center remains committed to supporting education, youth empowerment, and infrastructure development. Key priorities include:

1. **Fundraising MWK 1,500,000** for remaining school uniforms.
2. **Monitoring reintegrated youths** while expanding vocational training.
3. **Finalizing kitchen construction** for full operational use.

We appreciate all partners, donors, and volunteers contributing to these initiatives and welcome further support to ensure their success. Special thanks to Dr. David Elder, our biggest donor who supports our daily operations, Catherine Elder, Chris Hamer for the work they do to support our organization from time to time, WCAA for the amazing work and effort to fundraise for the school uniforms, Vitumbiko Ng'oma, our Project Manager for coordinating, planning and executing all the activities, Karen Mofolo for the tremendous teaching job, and lastly, Vincent Charlie for the youth counselling and all the youth activities being championed by him.

Our initiatives are not just changing individual lives, they are fostering community resilience, district-level development, and national progress. With continued support, we can scale our impact and create lasting change.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller.