



## ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

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# INTRODUCTION

Makazi is the Swahili word to mean Shelter.

The Makazi Foundation is a Malawian nonprofit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by empowering vulnerable youth and children through psychosocial support, holistic education, and vocational skills training. Founded on the belief that no child or young person should be left behind, we create safe, inclusive spaces where young people can heal, learn, and grow into resilient, self-sufficient individuals.



## OUR IDENTITY

### Our Mission

Our aim is to provide psychosocial support, a holistic education and vocational skills training to shelter vulnerable youth and children from poverty; whilst empowering them for the future.

### Our Vision

To raise a generation of young people that are emotionally intelligent, well-rounded and have the skill-set to earn a living; without falling back into the cycle of poverty.





# WHAT WE PROVIDE



## Psychosocial Support

Emotional wellness is the foundation of all growth and fulfillment. We provide safe spaces for healing, self-discovery, and resilience because without mental strength, no progress can be sustained.



## Holistic Education

We educate for life. From women's rights to breast cancer awareness, GBV, CSE, SRHR, and career guidance; we equip youth with knowledge that empowers them to live consciously and lead confidently.



## Vocational Skills Training

We turn passion into purpose. Through hands-on skills in beauty, fashion, agriculture, and more, we aim to empower youth to earn a living, build independence, and break the cycle of poverty.

# OUR VALUES

**Equity** - We believe in impartial treatment of all peoples, particularly in regards to their social, physical, mental and psychological well-being.

**Accountability** - We believe in taking ownership of our actions and that we should be answerable for these actions and the actions of our teams.

**Collaboration** - We value both internal and external partnerships, as a means of combining our strengths, in order to reach a common goal.

**Diversity** - We value diverse life experiences and heritages and acknowledge differences as necessary for driving innovation and fostering creativity.

**Continuous Learning** - We believe that continuously expanding our skillsets will enable us to increasingly grow our efficiency to make change.

## OUR IMPACT

Since our founding, The Makazi Foundation has been a driving force of change for vulnerable children and youth across Malawi. We exist to ensure that no young person is left behind; especially those facing poverty, trauma, or lack of opportunity.

Through our psychosocial support programs, holistic education initiatives, and practical vocational training, we provide young people with the emotional strength, knowledge, and real-world skills they need to break the cycle of hardship and build fulfilling lives.

Our impact continues to grow every year.

**2500+**

Young People Reached

**90+**

Volunteers

**50+**

Teachers Trained

**8+**

Locations/Communities

## 2025 THEME: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

"Leave No One Behind" is more than a theme; it's a promise. In 2025, we are deepening our commitment to ensure that no child or young person in Malawi is left out of the opportunity to learn, heal, and grow.

Too many vulnerable youth are excluded from education, mental health support, and practical skills development due to poverty, trauma, or lack of access.

We believe that inclusion is the foundation of true progress. When every young person is given a chance to succeed, entire communities are uplifted.



# OUR PROJECTS

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The following SDGs are the foundation of our goals and initiatives:





## OUR PROJECTS

At The Makazi Foundation, our projects are the driving force behind our mission to uplift vulnerable youth and children across Malawi. From mental health advocacy and life skills training to education support and community-led initiatives, every project is thoughtfully designed to meet real needs on the ground. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our work creates lasting impact; transforming lives and strengthening communities, one step at a time.



## 2022 PROJECTS

In 2022, The Makazi Foundation launched its foundational projects focused on youth empowerment, mental health, and gender-based violence prevention. These initiatives laid the groundwork for our long-term commitment to supporting vulnerable children and youth across Malawi.

### International Youth Day – Blantyre Secondary School

- Held under the theme “Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages,” this entrepreneurship seminar inspired over 280 students through real-life stories and guidance aligned with SDG 8 and 10.

### Mental Health Workshop – Blantyre Secondary School

- Conducted in partnership with Nditha Rehabilitation Centre and Let’s Talk Mental Health Malawi, this workshop reached over 300 teenagers, addressing mental health awareness, self-esteem, substance abuse, and coping strategies.

### GBV Donation – Gender Justice Unit, Lilongwe

- In response to increased cases of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, we donated essential items—clothes, shoes, media equipment—to the Gender Justice Unit to support long-term care for survivors.

### Sexual Reproductive Health Workshop – Chiradzulu Secondary School

- Over 300 students were trained in reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention, and self-advocacy. The workshop highlighted deep-rooted challenges faced by youth, especially girls.

# 2022 PROJECTS

## International Youth Day 2022

*Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages*



## Gender-Based Violence Donation 2022



## 2023 PROJECTS

In 2023, The Makazi Foundation expanded its reach and deepened its impact through a diverse range of programs that addressed gender equality, climate action, mental health, and holistic education. Our continued work in Chigwaja and beyond reflected our commitment to long-term recovery, emotional well-being, and community empowerment.

### Women's Month Webinars

- A series of virtual discussions celebrating women's leadership, resilience, and empowerment. The webinars created a safe platform for storytelling, advocacy, and personal growth.

### Chigwaja Cyclone Freddy Relief

- Following the devastating effects of Cyclone Freddy, we provided emergency aid—including food, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items to over 200 individuals in Chigwaja who had not received prior support.

### Chigwaja Follow-Up Donation & Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop

- As part of our ongoing commitment to Chigwaja, we returned with additional donations and conducted a Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop, educating over 100 women and girls about early detection and self-examination.

### International Youth Day 2023 - Mount View International Primary School

- Celebrated under the theme "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World," this project promoted environmental education through recycling assemblies, donation of recycling bins, and art clubs using recycled materials.

# 2023 PROJECTS

## Chigwaja Mental Health & Breast Cancer Awareness

- Mental health education was extended to students at Chigwaja Primary School and women in the community, emphasizing emotional resilience and wellness alongside breast cancer education.

## Chiradzulu Mental Health & Holistic Education

- Through mental health research and training sessions, students were equipped with tools to manage stress, build emotional intelligence, and pursue personal growth in tandem with their education.

## Recycled Material Art Presentation – Art Clubs with Cocoon Arts

- In partnership with Cocoon Arts, children created artwork from recycled materials, fostering creativity, environmental responsibility, and teamwork.

## 16 Days Against GBV Webinars

- During the global campaign, we hosted webinars focused on raising awareness about gender-based violence and intimate partner violence, with an emphasis on community dialogue and survivor-centered support.



# 2023 PROJECTS

## Chigwaja Cyclone Freddy Relief 2023



# 2023 PROJECTS

## Mental Health Workshops



## International Youth Day 2023

*Green Skills For Youth: Towards A Sustainable World*



# 2024 PROJECTS

In 2024, The Makazi Foundation focused on deepening internal leadership, expanding gender and mental health advocacy, and strengthening climate and education initiatives. This year marked meaningful progress in building capacity, promoting emotional wellness, and engaging diverse voices through creative platforms.

## 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- The Foundation held its very first strategic AGM to review impact, align on future goals, and reaffirm its commitment to sustainable youth empowerment and inclusive community development.

## Chigwaja Tree Planting 2024

- As part of our ongoing reforestation campaign, youth and community members in Chigwaja planted hundreds of trees to restore degraded land and raise environmental awareness.

## Women's Month Podcast

- This empowering podcast series highlighted stories of Malawian women, fostering dialogue on leadership, purpose, and resilience while celebrating Women's Month.

## Blantyre Team Building

- Staff and volunteers came together in Blantyre for a team-building session focused on leadership, collaboration, and nurturing a unified, mission-driven culture.

## Secondary School Teacher Training

- This training program equipped teachers with skills in psychosocial support, student engagement, and holistic education—enhancing their ability to foster emotional and academic growth in schools.

# 2024 PROJECTS

## Lilongwe Team Strategy Meeting

- Key team members gathered in Lilongwe to refine strategic goals, assess program implementation, and strengthen the Foundation's operational roadmap.

## Sexual and Reproductive Health Workshop

- This workshop provided accurate health education, life skills, and safe space discussions for youth to make informed, confident decisions about their reproductive health.

## Men's Mental Health Podcast

- A bold and honest conversation series that tackled emotional stigma among men, promoting mental health awareness and encouraging open expression.

## Chigwaja Tree Planting 2024



## 2024 PROJECTS

### Men's Mental Health Workshop

- Through structured sessions, men and boys explored mental health challenges, coping mechanisms, and the importance of emotional well-being in their personal and community lives.

### 16 Days of Activism – Gender-Based Violence

- As part of the global campaign, Makazi hosted events and discussions to raise awareness and challenge harmful norms around gender-based violence.

### Chigwaja Follow-Up Donation

- Building on previous efforts, the Foundation returned to Chigwaja with additional essential supplies, reinforcing long-term recovery for cyclone-affected families.

### 16 Days of Activism – GBV and Intimate Partner Violence

- Focused on intimate partner violence, this campaign created safe spaces for survivors, amplified voices through webinars, and educated communities on prevention and support.





# 2024 PROJECTS

## Blantyre Team Building



## 16 Days of Activism – Gender-Based Violence



## MEET THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees is the heartbeat of The Makazi Foundation; an inspiring group of visionary leaders who guide, support, and champion our mission at every turn.

More than advisors, our Board Members are catalysts for change. They bring a dynamic blend of expertise in education, business, nonprofit leadership, and community development, united by a shared commitment to empowering Malawi's most vulnerable children and youth.

Their collective insight, strategic direction, and deep compassion ensure that every decision we make is rooted in integrity, impact, and a bold vision for a better future.



## MEET THE BOARD



### **Diana Kalitera**

*Founder and Chairwoman*

Diana Kalitera is the visionary Founder and Chairwoman of The Makazi Foundation, bringing together a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, an Advanced Diploma in Marketing, over eight years of international teaching experience, and five years as an entrepreneur. Her leadership blends strategic insight with a deep passion for youth empowerment, driving the Foundation's mission to tackle poverty through psychosocial support, holistic education, and vocational training. Under her guidance, Makazi has impacted thousands of young people across Malawi, with a growing focus on mental health. Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Diana's dynamic, purpose-driven approach continues to spark lasting change in underserved communities.

### **Henderson Mhango**

*Vice Chair*

Henderson Mhango is a Human Rights Lawyer with a Bachelor's Degree of Law (Honors) and Advance Diploma in Business Administration and Management Studies. Henderson is a well-seasoned Human Rights and Governance Activist a Founder and Executive Director of Youth Coordinating Agency in Development (YOCADE) a non-governmental organization working in four thematic areas of Human Rights, Good Governance, Health and Education targeting key population, youth and women's. Henderson Mhango holds a leadership position of National Coordinator of Forum for Democracy and Rights Defenders (FDRD), Chairperson of Blantyre District Education Network(BT-DEN), Board Chairperson of Lifeline ANPPCAN Malawi also a Vice Chairperson of Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) Southern Region Chapter-Malawi.



## MEET THE BOARD



**Allan Nasoro**  
Secretary

Allan is a seasoned and inspiring leader with 15 years of experience in retail and corporate banking. He leverages his talent, skills, knowledge, and expertise to drive innovations that positively impact individuals, businesses, and communities. Recognized for his ability to deliver results, inspire high-performing teams, and demonstrate a deep understanding of banking and sales leadership, Allan excels in diverse environments. Beyond his professional pursuits, he is an entrepreneur and he is also passionate about his community. He serves on the board of Rotary Club of Lilongwe and holds the role of Competition Secretary at Lilongwe Golf Club.

**Tamanda Zembere**  
Treasurer

Tamanda Zembere is a results-driven finance and grants management specialist with over 10 years of experience leading high-impact, donor-funded projects across Africa. She holds a Bachelor of Accountancy Degree from the University of Malawi, is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), an ACCA-qualified professional, and is currently pursuing an MBA in Strategy. Tamanda has a strong track record in managing complex budgets and donor funds, preparing Financial reports-compliant with IFRS, leading audits, and building robust financial systems for organizations funded by USAID, EU, World Bank, Global fund etc. Passionate about financial integrity and development impact, she brings a powerful blend of strategic thinking, compliance expertise, and on-the-ground leadership.



## MEET THE BOARD



**Vitumbiko Ngwira**

*Vocational Skills Specialist*

Vitumbiko Andrew Ngwira is a passionate development practitioner with several years of experience in nonprofit organization leadership, both in local and international organizations. Vitumbiko has expertise in grants management and compliance, proposal development, program management, youth empowerment, organizational leadership, and safeguarding. He holds a Ph.D. in Business & Management from the University of Zambia. He currently serves the Makazi Foundation as a board member (Vocational Skills Specialist).

**Kelvin Kamphambale**

*Community Development Specialist*

Kelvin is a result-oriented self-starter with over 16 years' work experience built in NGO management and public service. He is a highly experienced project management professional. He is a tough and hardworking individual with high levels of integrity. He is a dynamic, performance-driven individual with deep knowledge of Finance, Operations, Human Resources, Grants and Compliance Management. He has a proven record of implementing welfare programs, engaging with stakeholders, and driving social change. He is passionate about youth and women's empowerment. Kelvin holds 4 academic qualifications; 3 degrees from accredited universities and a Malawi School Certificate of Education. Kelvin is a member of Association of Chartered Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors and Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi. Kelvin is currently serving as a Head of Finance at Malawi Catering Services Limited at Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe.





## MEET THE BOARD



### **Chrispine Nthezemu Kamanga**

*Psychosocial Support Specialist*

A Malawian citizen with PhD in Pastoral Care and Counselling obtained from Stellenbosch University. Chrispine works with St. John of God Hospitaller Services, a mental health institution in Mzuzu since 2011. Currently, he Coordinates a preventive mental health care program for the street connected children known as Umoza (Togetherness). Umoza project rehabilitates and educates vulnerable children especially those connected to the streets. While in this role, he is also involved in teaching at St. John of God University. Furthermore, he consults with Compassion International on issues of mental health and going back to school. Passionate in psychotherapy, his research interest interrogates how faith healing and cultural practices can be involved in western medical practices in the healing of people suffering from mental illness.

## ADVISORY BOARD



### **Humphrey Panyanja**

*Legal Advisor*

Humphrey Panyanja is a seasoned human rights lawyer with 7 years of specialized experience in strategic litigation, advocacy, negotiation, and law reform. Currently, he holds the position of Chief Legal Aid Advocate at the Legal Aid Bureau (Southern Region) in Malawi, where he provides legal representation to economically disadvantaged individuals across various legal forums nationwide. His practice focuses extensively on children's rights, including cases involving child custody, juvenile offenders, adoption, and guardianship. Additionally, he oversees administrative operations for the Legal Aid Bureau's Southern Region.

Humphrey holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Degree from the University of Malawi. He is now pursuing advanced studies toward a Master of Laws Degree in Human Rights Law, Public International Law, and Law and Development at the University of London, supported by the prestigious Canon Collins Scholarship for postgraduate studies.

Beyond his academic pursuits, he actively engages in community service initiatives, supporting the professional growth of African lawyers through Justice Advocacy Africa and participating in global social service projects with the Community of Sant'Egidio.

## ADVISORY BOARD



### **Duwa Mutharika**

*Socioemotional Learning Advisor*

Duwa Mutharika is an experienced executive and leadership coach, corporate wellness trainer, curriculum developer, and facilitator with over 20 years of cross-sector experience in communications, coaching, and capacity building across Africa and the United States. A member of the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and COMENSA, she has held professional coaching credentials in good standing for over a decade.

Duwa is skilled in designing and implementing socioemotional learning programs for children and adults. One of her afterschool programs is currently in use in schools across the Washington, DC area. For the past decade, she has taught essential life skills to adults in Johannesburg, using evidence-based instructional design and curriculum development methods. Her work includes financial literacy training tailored for individuals with institutional financial trauma, and she currently leads a Train-the-Trainer program for financial institutions to better serve unbanked and underserved communities.–

A former Trade and Tourism Attaché for the Republic of Malawi, Duwa brings a strong background in international relations, stakeholder engagement, and regional development. She is also the Founder and Country Lead of Girls 4 Girls Malawi and serves as a DEI consultant and facilitator, supporting organizations in building inclusive and sustainable systems for growth and transformation.

## Contact Us



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