



Joshua Orphan and Community Care – Mathers Trust

Grant Summary Report – February 2016

Total donation	£5,000
Total Activity Spend	£4,993

No.	Activity	Total spend per Activity - MK	Total spend per Activity - £ GBP
1	Preschool education: understanding the bongo model	191,205	£294
2	Support and ECD training for caregivers	1,137,841	£1750
3	Supplies for digging vegetable plots *	0	£0
4	Build energy efficient stoves	339,400	£522
5	Provide new kitchen supplies	399,820	£615
6	Essential renovation works **	1,086,275	£1671
7	Kitty Clubs	98,000	£140
	Total MK	2,610,791	£4993

- Due to the difficult planting conditions this year, it wasn't possible carry out this activity. Our 2016 annual plan includes plans to carry out a barrier analysis survey to work out why gardens haven't always been successful.

** This activity used the contingency part of the budget, and underspends from other lines

Activities

1. Understanding the BoNGO model of ECD

The Joshua CBCC's focus on nutrition and early childhood development - the aim being to ensure all children and their communities reach their full potential. The CBCC's are run entirely by volunteer caregivers, women and men from the community who have come together to support their most vulnerable and needy children through collective feeding programs. The majority of these women have not completed primary education themselves and have a limited understanding of the true potential of Early Childhood Development. They play a critical role in these children's lives and occupy a space of potentially enormous positive change - and yet they often lack confidence and skills to transfer their knowledge to the children in their care - or even see that their knowledge and experience is valuable.

In early 2015, Joshua partnered with boNGO, a non-profit non-governmental organization in Malawi whose aim is to raise the standard of ECD education through its model childcare centres - **Umodzi-Mbame** and **Mango**. boNGO is pioneering a Montessori methodology for the rural setting that offers an immersive and high standard of care. Joshua Caregivers from Mwandika and Kachumbe CBCC's made several visits in 2015 to the boNGO Centres to learn, observe and share ideas.



Kachumbe Playground Renovations

Kachumbe CBCC's specialist ECD playground has been renovated to ensure that it is safe for children to use. The CBCC is used by an average of 50 children daily under 6 years. The playground is designed by boNGO – a specialist NGO partner that Joshua works closely with. The playground also received a bright fresh paint to entice the children and the caregivers were reminded on safe play and general health and safety measures.

2. Training and support to volunteer caregivers

a) **Incentives to caregivers:** The Joshua CBCC's are run by volunteer caregivers – women and men from the communities who are committed to supporting vulnerable children and who give their time freely. Most caregivers will give 1-2 mornings a week of their time, getting up early to fetch water and firewood and be ready for the children's arrival. As a token of thanks at the end of each academic term, the caregivers have received a small gift. This incentive is essential for commitment, retention and motivation of caregivers.



Term One	Each caregiver received 2 bars of laundry soap, 1 bar body soap, 1 tube of Vaseline and 1 packet sugar
Term Two	Each caregiver received 5 bars of laundry soap, 1 tube of Vaseline and 1 packet of sugar.
Term Three	Each caregiver received 1 bottle of body lotion, 4 laundry soaps and 1 packet of sugar.

b) Chitenjes for Caregivers

In addition to the normal incentives, each caregiver (total 154) received a Chitenje wrap as a special thank you Christmas gift in December – a total of 154 chitenjes. The Mathers Trust contributed 50% of the costs for the Chitenje while the other 50% was sourced through an online Christmas appeal.



c) Tiamike Play Day

In March 2015, Joshua teamed up with the Sarah Lawrence College USA and specialist Early Childhood Development professor Kim Ferguson to host a play day session at Tiamike CBCC. The Mathers fund was able to make this activity possible, with provision of play materials including rope, glue and chalk as well as a round of soda's for the volunteer caregivers who participated. The sessions were broken down into two half day sessions. The first of which was a reflective session in which the caregivers were taken on a journey back to their own childhoods to remember what kinds of play experiences they enjoyed. The session unfolded into a lively sharing of experiences with a lot of laughter. The caregivers were all assigned the homework of bringing something made from locally sourced materials to the play session the next day. On day two, the children were invited to play with an assortment of materials – almost all being available locally, such as mud, sticks, plastic bottles and bottle caps and string. Some basic materials were also sourced from town. The day opened up the caregivers minds to the possibility of play as an every day, every moment experience that helps children to learn about themselves and their environments. Ongoing monitoring suggest that play activities at Tiamike have increased since this session and more play days are planned for 2016 across all CBCC's.



3. Fuel Efficient Stoves – Esperanza stoves

Three Esperanza Stoves were constructed in Mwandika, Kachumbe and Solomoni. These stoves reduce indoor air pollution and firewood

harvesting and are more stable and safe than traditional methods such as cooking on three stones.



Fuel Efficient Rocket Stoves

In two CBCC's, Manyowe and Milo, general maintenance was carried out on the existing rocket stoves to give them extended life. These stoves also harness fuel reducing technology and are more portable than the Esperanza stoves which suits some CBCC localities



4. CBCC Cooking / Cleaning Utensils

The Grant has enabled the CBCC to restock on some key utensils and cooking supplies. These include cups for measuring porridge and drinking, bowls and spoons for the children to eat with and large wooden spoons for stirring porridge. As well the fund supplied mops and brooms for all the CBCC's. For the Peri-Urban CBCC's where firewood is harder to come by locally, the fund also enabled supply of fuel for cooking. In 2016, Joshua will plant trees at key sites to offset against the essential use of firewood at the CBCC's and will continue to promote sustainable use of firewood in all CBCC's.

5. Essential Renovation Works across the CBCC's

The Grant has enabled JOCC to carry out essential renovation works at seven CBCC's:

- a. Two broken window panes at Makolo CBCC
- b. Fixed broken steps and pathway leading to the toilet easing children's access at Chimwemwe CBCC
- c. At Kasinje, a new child-friendly toilet block was constructed (slab, walls and roof) replacing the old one that had become damaged with the heavy rains an overuse.



- d. At Mwandika, the toilet sits on a higher part of the grounds and over time, the pathway to this has become steep due to erosion. Steps have been introduced to ease access to the very young children. The toilet was also renovated and several large potholes in the main classroom were filled to make the room safe for children.



- e. Kachumbe's toilet was renovated with child-friendly measures introduced – more light, lower door handle and footing slabs children to stand on
- f. Tiamike experienced a termite issue this year that eroded the wooden beam of the whole structure. The beam has been replaced and the whole structure and kitchen have been termite proofed. The availability of funds to carry out this work as soon as it was noticed has meant the CBCC was made safe quickly and service provision to the children continued. The door to the main building was also damaged and unlockable creating a security risk. The door was fixed and a new rim lock added.
- g. At Solomoni, a door protector was installed to increase security after the storage of porridge was moved from the chief's home to that of the CBCC storeroom. The toilet roof was also damaged in the 2015 heavy rains and was replaced, while the foundations were also reinforced.

6. Kitty Clubs

Kitty Clubs are Joshua's support groups for elderly carers. Many elderly in Malawi, particularly grandmothers, have had to take on significant caring responsibilities later in life with many caring single-handedly for their grandchildren. Kitty Clubs provide a space where they can get together, share a meal and discuss any challenges they are facing. Each Kitty Club is attended by around 20-60 people each time. We have 10 Kitty Clubs in total so reach 340-400 every month. The attached newsletter describes the experience of Theresa Chimimbe (pictured with Sylvia) who attends our Kitty Club at Solomoni. The name Kitty Clubs is in memory of Sylvia's own mother.



***Thank You to all at the Jessica Mathers Trust for making all
of this work possible in 2015***

Joshua Orphan and Community Care Malawi

