

L&E MALAWI 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Almighty God has made possible what was impossible in the eyes of people at the beginning of 2023. The year 2023 began for me with a very painful sickness. I was sick for at least three months, but the Almighty God was on my side. Also, Cyclone Freddy destroyed many lives and people's property including literacy materials. Even in these situations, God did not forget us. He has been faithful to us for all these difficulties. I really appreciate His goodness and kindness.

I give thanks and appreciation to the supporters who stood with us last year. L&E MALAWI was able to carry out some of the activities programmed for 2023. The most significant activities were the training of teachers from different churches in Malawi and Mozambique, opening new literacy classes in different churches, printing Chisena primers and distributing them to the literacy classes.

Malawi Projects

SENA LITERACY PROJECT

Soon after planting crops, we had very heavy rains which brought floods all over the area where Sena classes are located. The Sena-speaking areas were badly affected by Cyclone Freddy. The area was flooded all over. Many houses, crop fields, churches and properties were washed away by floods. Cyclone Freddy left people homeless and hopeless. The primers I distributed in 2022 were among the property which are washed away by floods. In 2022 I had an opportunity to help the classes with learning materials like boards, boxes of chalk and erasers. All of these were also washed away by floods. The outbreak of different diseases like cholera, malaria and many water-borne diseases troubled many people because places were not safe. Most painful was the number of deaths that increased daily. Mainly elderly people, children, and women lost their lives. They had not enough strength to run away from deadly Cyclone Freddy.

I had an opportunity to print some Sena primers in 2023, and I distributed all of them to the Sena literacy classes.

CHEWA LITERACY PROJECT

I had wonderful class visits driving from main roads to the classes and distributed the remaining Chewa primers I had, because God blessed me with a vehicle. I visited more literacy classes in Chikwawa last year. I find out that many classes are operating even though Cyclone Freddy affected the whole district of Chikwawa. The challenges are the learning and teaching materials were carried away by floods. I gave them the remaining Chichewa primers.

The students and teachers depend upon farming to get their daily food. The floods carried away all hope. They did not harvest anything. They were trying to prepare their fields again for replanting but they do not have seeds.

Some of the students also faced the disaster of Cyclone Freddy, but during this time of hardship we managed to open twenty new classes within six months. I had the opportunity to visit these twenty new classes.

Sena Literacy activities

Right: This is Dumba 1 literacy class. They do not have a full board. The teacher hung a piece of board around his neck and started teaching the students to write. This piece of board was given in 2022. During Cyclone Freddy, it was torn apart, lost a part and only one piece remained. The class meets under a tree.

The class was divided into seven classes. It is because the village is so big. The village was divided into four villages. So this is the main village. One teacher cannot manage to teach them all.



A teacher hung a piece of board on his neck and a student writes under a tree.



Chipakuza literacy class in Nsanje after receiving newly printed primers

Left: This is the literacy class at Chipakuza Traditional Authority Malemia in Nsanje. The students were so happy to receive new primers in Sena. Many people were not attending classes due to the lack of primers. After receiving these books they resumed classes right away. The teachers were encouraged to have these learning materials.



This is Chimwemwe Kafumphe, a teacher at Dumba 3 Literacy Class.



This is Dumba 3 literacy class. Praise God for this class.



This is Pastor Mganiwa Tsamdoka who is the literacy teacher at Tusida class. He is using the remaining piece of board I bought for them.

NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE Teacher-Training Workshop (TTW):

In June of 2022, Pastor Chancy Gondwe and I were invited to train students at a school of church planting in Nampula, Mozambique under CAPRO Ministry. The ministry is led by Pastor Ademola and his wife Bilha. The training was done successfully. Hence, in 2023 we were invited again to do another TTW with another group of students. Brother Chancy went with Pastor Wales Sawali because I could not travel for health reasons. They drove from Mangochi to Nampula, covering a distance of 1,060km round trip. The training was from Monday to Thursday, 10-13 July. They trained a total of 24 students using the Portuguese and Makuwa primers. There is so much need for literacy in the northern part of Mozambique. Officially it shows that the country's literacy rate is at 60%. However, the situation on the ground looks to be worse than that. For instance, one participant mentioned that in his church of 150 members only one person is literate. The Portuguese primer we are using was developed for Brazil in 2011 and I think it needs to be revised and to be contextualized for Mozambique Portuguese. There are some word differences and there is a need to add health and agriculture lessons. The trip was partly funded by the host, CAPRO Ministry, and Muliko Literacy Project through donations they receive. We are planning to go again in 2024 between June and July to conduct a Trainer of Trainers (TOT) workshop, God willing. This training will help us a lot. We cannot go sometimes for teacher training. If we train TOTs, they can train themselves beyond Nampula province.

Table 1: Summary of trainings

Languages	Number of trained master facilitators	Number of Literacy teachers	Total
Chewa	5	115	120
Sena	12	156	168
Makhuwa	2	67	69
Total	19	417	436

Table 2: Learners' participation in courses.

Languages	Number of classes	Number of learners	Observations
Chewa	115	1150	Literacy classes opened by the government are not taken into account.
Sena	156	1560	Literacy classes opened by the government are not taken into account.
Makhuwa	67	650	These are classes opened by CAPRO Mission
Total	338	3360	

Table 3: Financial Report

Amount	Financing Structure	Purpose of the funding	Observations
\$1,772.50	Supporter	My personal support	I need prayers and God's intervention for my personal support. I do get \$100 per month which is very difficult for me to survive on.
\$1,481.00	Literacy and Evangelism International	Printing and distributing of Sena Primers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1481.00 for printing and distribution of Sena primers.
\$200 Canadian Dollar	LEI- CANADA	Ministry funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$200 Canadian Dollar for ministry

Praise Items

- Praise God for the provision of funds for printing and distribution of Sena Primers.

Prayer requests

- Pray for support for the Trainer of Trainers (TOT) workshop like last year. I sent the budget for literacy last year.
- Pray for traveling funds to visit and see Literacy projects around Malawi.
- Pray for revision of Sena primers. (This primer needs to be updated and more Bible stories added.)
- Pray for revision of Portuguese primer and Trainer of Trainers workshop in Nampula, Mozambique.
- Pray for registration of L&E–Malawi.org.

CONCLUSION:

According to what I have seen during this time of my literacy ministry, I find out that there is hidden treasure. Literacy is a tool to open and vindicate the truth of the word of God to the illiterate people. Indeed, learning to read and write in local languages is very important to people in our communities here in Malawi. It is also easy communication of the Gospel to the non-Christians around us.