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Community-Led Disability Care: Building Sustainable Support Systems in Malawi

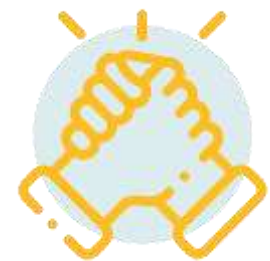
Hamilton Kambalame

BACKGROUND

MISSION STATEMENT

Kingdom Workers spreads the gospel by mobilizing Christians in locally sustainable mission work, addressing the physical and spiritual needs of communities worldwide

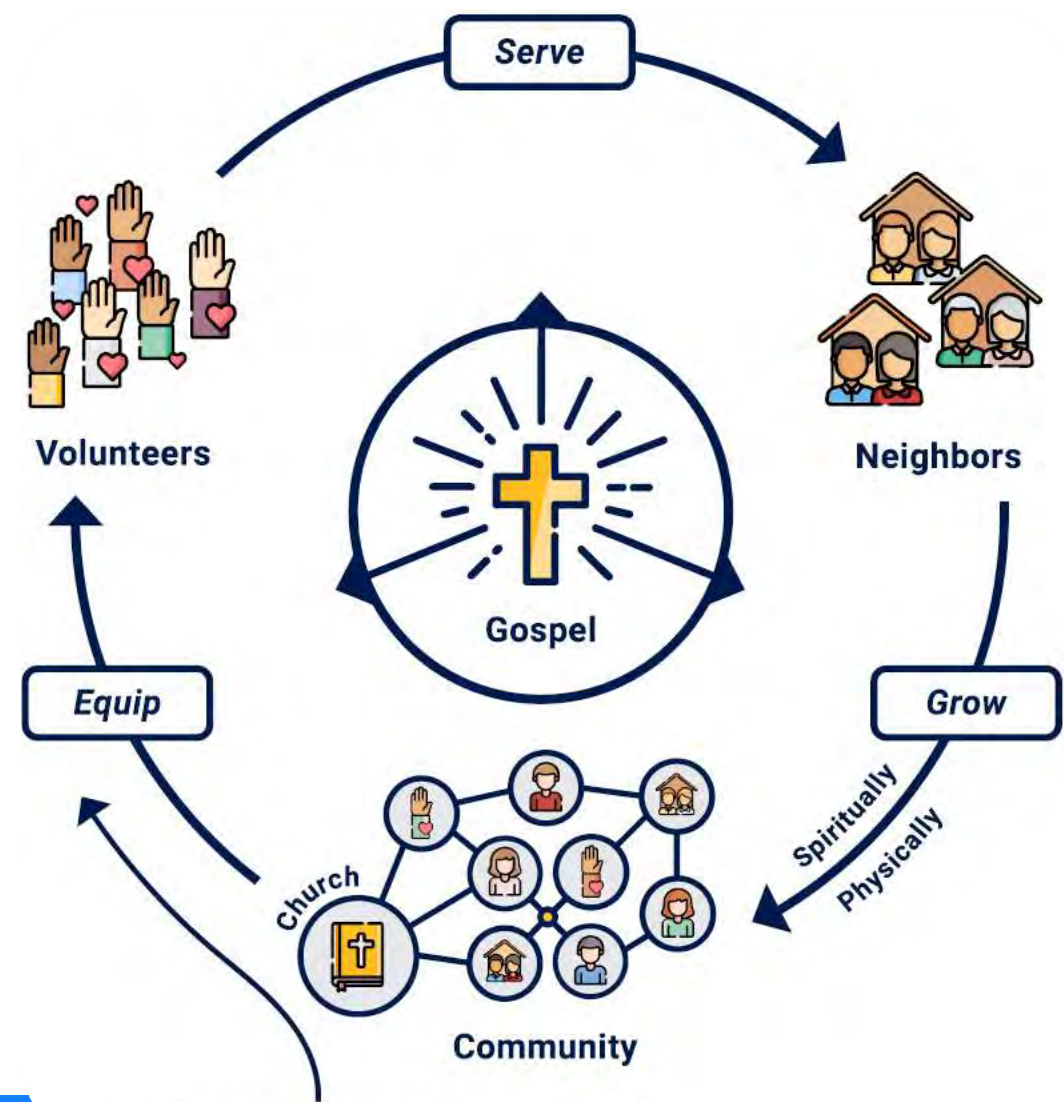
KINGDOM WORKERS PROMISE



Christian welfare
Everywhere we go, we work to meet the human needs of the people we serve

Gospel proclamation
Seek the lost and always testify and share the gospel of Jesus Christ

Meaningful Local Relationships
Rely on the local community and local lay-leadership as the primary participants and owners of the ministry



kingdom workers.

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KW Malawi Disability Ministry

The mission of this ministry is to promote the full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in both church and community life—recognizing their God-given value and dignity.

- Currently operating in 42 congregations
- Empowers congregations to reach and serve PWDs in rural communities by offering adapted worship services, home-based care, and support in accessing education and healthcare.
- 265 children served through volunteers from 14 congregations- 2024



Metrics

2023



174
children
served



522
home visits



9
churches

2024



265
children
served



1,440
home visits



14
churches



children supported
with hospital transport



Literature

According to Hume-Nixon & Kuper (2018), children with disabilities are 3x more likely to be underweight and 2x more likely to be stunted and wasted compared to their peers without disabilities. Despite this, they are often excluded from mainstream nutrition initiatives.



Kalambe LCCA Nutrition Pilot Project



Activities

Nutrition Screening-MUAC
etc

Cooking lessons

Backyard gardening

Developing a communal
bakery





Progress so far

- 21 parents trained in practical nutrition – How to prepare meals that are rich in nutrients and easy to swallow
- 15 backyard gardens started, mainly vegetables
- 20 families now raising chickens for eggs
- Increased awareness and uptake of exclusive breastfeeding
- Supported with establishment of communal bakery for sustainability of the initiatives
- 21 children screened



What we can learn

- Community-led models are sustainable and inclusive
- Churches are powerful instruments to enact change in the sector of disability



CASE STUDY



CHRISTIAN JOURNAL
GLOBAL HEALTH

Church-based ministry to people with disabilities in Malawi: a case study and program evaluation

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