

HANDING OUT OF AMBULANCE BICYCLES TO TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY MPONDA IN MANGOCHI

Reported by Ufulu Chungu

ABOUT THE REPORTER



Figure 1 Ufulu Chungu

i. Professional Background

Ufulu Chungu is a Malawian Chartered Accountant under the Association of Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA Affiliate). Prior pursuing the accounting profession, he studied Philosophy and Social Sciences at St. Anthony Kachebere Major Seminary and worked on social empowerment of communities in the Diocese of Dedza from 1999 to 2007. To his credit in financial management are KFM Consultants progress reports on Catholic Health Commission – Diocese of Chikwawa financial management (2010 – 2015) and five unqualified external audit and assurance reports by Graham Carr (2011 – 2014 financial years) and AMG Global (2010 financial year).

ii. Working for Cordaid

Ufulu worked for two projects with funding from Cordaid – Netherlands (Performance Based Financing in the field of HIV Home based Care and Connect4Change ICT in Women Health) worth €500,000 beginning 2011 to mid-2015. The projects were implemented through Chikwawa Catholic Health Commission (CHC). The two projects were for the communities in Chikwawa district which lies to the southern tip of Malawi. His role has been budgeting, monitoring project expenditures and financial reporting for the project.

iii. Independent Reporter

Transport4Transport contracted Ufulu Chungu to make an independent report on the presentation ceremony of ambulance bicycles by CISER to the communities of group village headmen Michesi, Matuwi and Chipoka in Mangochi district. The report covers the background issues that triggered the donation; objective of the event and the targeted community; the impact of the donation to the beneficiary communities and the donation package.

iv. Aim of the Report

The report aims at the following:

- a) Informing the sponsors challenges the beneficiary communities face and the impact/benefits the donation brings about to their lives.
- b) To encourage other people of goodwill to come to the rescue of vulnerable communities in Malawi.

I. BACKGROUND

On 2 August, 2015, Community Initiative for Self-Reliance (CISER) distributed 11 ambulance bicycles to 11 villages in Traditional Authority Mponda in Mangochi with assistance from Butterfly Foundation International. The Ward Councilor for the Michesi Ward, Nelson Salande through his development meetings realized the transportation challenges the communities from the eleven villages experienced. The communities faced challenges to transport pregnant mothers, cholera patients and patients suffering from general outbreaks to the nearest health centre which is 25km away. Further, other villages are situated in upper land and they face big challenges of access to safe water for domestic chores. The villages draw water from water sources shared both with domestic and wild animals. Consequently, during rainy seasons, the communities become victims of water borne diseases, cholera topping the list.

II. OBJECTIVE

To ease transportation problems of patients and pregnant women to the nearest health centre.

III. TARGET

The distribution targeted pregnant women, cholera patients and patients suffering from general conditions that require attention from the health facility. The beneficiary villages are

1. Michesi
2. Matuwi
3. Chipoka
4. Mtimbuka
5. Mtsinje
6. Makokola
7. Makawa
8. Ntyala
9. Chisingere
10. Mpemba
11. Kella

According to the Ward Councilor, the beneficiary villages comprise a population of over 40,000 people.

IV. BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITIES

a) Reduction of Preventable Pre-Mature Deaths

Pregnant women experienced delays to reach the nearest health facility when they experienced pregnant complications or when due for delivery. The ambulances will facilitate easy and quicker access to the hospital thereby reducing deaths.

b) Reduced Numbers of Infant deaths

Babies born at the health facilities will receive professional care thereby leading to reduction to preventable infant deaths.

c) Increased Numbers of Safe Delivery

Transportation problems made pregnant women due for delivery opt to undergo unsafe delivery right at their homes. The ambulances will encourage ladies to undergo safe delivery at the health facility thereby reduced health risks both to the mother and the baby.

d) Transportation of Dead Bodies

V. DONATION PACKAGE

The 11 ambulance bicycles were worth MWK 3million (three million Malawi Kwacha). The set for each village comprised:

- i. Bicycle
- ii. Care car
- iii. Pump
- iv. Security lock
- v. Spanner

The community representatives received training of how to assemble the set. CISER through Butterfly Foundation International pledged to maintain the ambulances free of charge to the communities.

VI. PICTORIAL REPORT

The pictorial report is a visual aid to the issues discussed in the report. Refer to **pages 5 to 10** to appreciate a view of the events that took place on the day of the handover of the ambulance bicycles.

Conclusion

The report was produced by Ufulu Chungu, an independent party to highlight the causative factors to the distribution of the ambulance bicycles to the eleven villages and the impact the donation to the communities. The beneficiary communities expressed gratitude to CISER for sourcing the ambulances which they clearly put it that the gesture will improve their health since mobility to the health facility has been made at an affordable effort. CISER pledged to remain in touch with the communities ensuring that there is progress in cultivating self-reliance.



Figure 2 Butterfly Foundation International Representative demonstrating to the Community Representative Assembling of the Care car







Figure 3 Demonstration of Positioning Patient on the care Car



Figure 4 Community Members Assembling thier Care Cars

Figure 5 Community Members Receiving Instructions from CISER

