

The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several faint, white, concentric circles and radial lines, some of which are numbered (e.g., 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260). Some of these lines have small arrows pointing outwards, suggesting a circular or radial flow.

UMOJA PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (UPD)

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT (2024)

ABSTRACT

- Umoja People with Disabilities (UPD), in this year 2024 has been known for the many things done to Advocate the rights of people with disabilities, albinism and people living with chronic diseases, especially at the government, health facilities, and various organizations that serve refugees and ensure that in all sectors the people mentioned above are involved in all stages of social development and that they also develop and feel that they live well like other people without discrimination or harassment or their own self-deprecation. Refugee mothers and daughters living with disabilities face various problems, such as lack of menstruation hygiene equipment, sexual harassment in their workplaces, homes, schools, public places and others, distrust in society, which is something we have been fighting against more and more this year. This advocacy work is not easy because of the traditions, religions and the way societies consider these people as not important in the society they live in, so overturning the idea is one of the struggles we have as an organization. During this year's journey, we have been informing the community about the rights of people living with disabilities, including those with chronic diseases who have been on the downswing for a long time and cannot do anything except send them medicine all the time, and their families are reaching the point of exhausting by them, which we consider as a disability and see them as deserving of their rights like other people who do not have these problems. As non-profit organization, our mandate is raise fund to assist them and assist in advocacy which we have seen changes that has begun to arise in Dzaleka community and other surrounding villages and the entire district of Dowa in Lilongwe Malawi.

1. WHO WE ARE

Umoja People with Disabilities is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that supports people with disabilities, people with albinism, and people who are most marginalized due to chronic illnesses. Through our pillars; Advocacy, community empowerment and capacity building. We fight for the rights of PWDs to improve their quality of life and to support their social integration, skill development, and meaningful representation in all spheres of society.



2. OUR PARTICIPATION

- In keeping with our participatory principles, UPD has supported the participation of people with disabilities (PDs), people with Albinism (PWAs), and Those suffering from long-term illnesses so that they can share their knowledge, experience, and leadership to further social justice and human rights. I cordially encourage you to peruse and disseminate our First Semester Report



We know as popular disability advocates, we are changing the conversation on impartiality, holding both generosity and movements accountable with a rallying cry:

There is no intersection without unity of people with disability and others. our team is committed to mobilizing resources to the refugees and host communities to strengthen the implementation of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities at Dzaleka. in 2024, we are have come with a new bold strategic plan.



Our goal is to serve and expand national inclusion to build a world that is free of barriers, exclusion, and albino's segregation, where the vital contributions of persons with disabilities are celebrated and embraced.

We amplified our efforts to increase the visibility and participation of Dzaleka, Dowa women, girls with disabilities, albinism and chronic diseases.

- We have involved people living with disabilities in several seminars to teach them their rights on how to be confident and advocate for themselves in all sectors. We have encouraged them to study and participate in community development to bring about change in the world.
- We conducted awareness campaigns in camps and involved organizations and government agencies to show how people living with disabilities can be involved. We are happy that some organizations are now starting to provide opportunities for people living with disabilities to study and get jobs.



3. OUR VALUES IN ACTION

- We value inclusion: The team, board, and project management committee of UPD are all guided and led by the lived experiences and leadership of persons with disabilities from around the Dzaleka refugee camp, Dowa, Malawi and the whole world.
- We value participation: Our key strategies— seek for technical funds for projects implementation and involve persons with disabilities (beneficiaries) so that everyone can participate equally irrespective of their Gender and Age.

4. ADVOCACY PROGRESS

- We have held ten successful Board meetings for planning and evaluating activities
- We had home visit, where we visited 82 People 62 female 22 male, this is to reach homes of people, listen to their challenges for advocacy and discovery of the area to be improved in our framework.
- We have received 142 who came with their complaints to our office, we have assisted them in different ways, some sent to the hospital, UNHCR, Plan Malawi.
- We sent list of 48 People at UNHRC to meet with protection officers for expressing their challenges which need hast solutions we are glad that they have been well received and some were assisted accordingly.
- We sent 37 cases to the Doctor of UNHCR, some cases were sent through Email and other through WhatsApp seeking for special treatments.
- We conducted 11 workshops on the Advocacy for the Rights of person with disabilities Funded by DRF since Early January 2024.
- We received different 34 guests; 2 from Brazil, 3 form Ubuntu, 5 from DHAT, 12 Mennonite Church, 3 from Rio Eco build, 5 T & T Project, and MACODA.
- We have been implementing the Advocacy project funded by Disability Right Fund (DRF) since early January this year (2024).

- We received different 17 guests from, 2 from Brazil, 3 from Ubuntu, 5 from DHAT, Mennonite Church, 3 from trio ECO build, T & T Project, and MACODA.
- We have advocated for people with Albinism for sunscreen and their clinics fortunately we have made partnership with Beyond Sun Care from Blantyre which has accepted to be providing sunscreen and clinic For Persons With Albinism they provided two clinics, one at Dowa hospital and the other at Dzaleka health center, they also provided soaps, sun screen, glasses, and caps.
- We have put intact preparations and conducted graduation for 112 students who have completed their courses at Umoja training center in computer program and English
- We had agreement with Mennonites church for assisting more refugees with disabilities massively and they have promised to support some of the projects presented to for assisting persons with disabilities.
- Recruited new EFL and Computer teachers.
- We have been in touch with different organization for raising fund and learning different strategies, approaches for caring advocacy work
- At Umoja English training center we have two courses English and computer course, all students are 688, computer 34, and English 654, female 306 male 382.
- We conducted campaign to aware the community on the rights of person with disabilities on 17th January to aware Dzaleka Community on the rights of person with disabilities
- We have posted photos and videos on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and tweeter
- We conducted an interface meetings with services providers in the sectors of health to provide inclusive reproductive health services to refugees with disabilities on 16 May where 25 persons specially women with disability and led by Madam Asale, a nurse working at Dzaleka Health Centre.

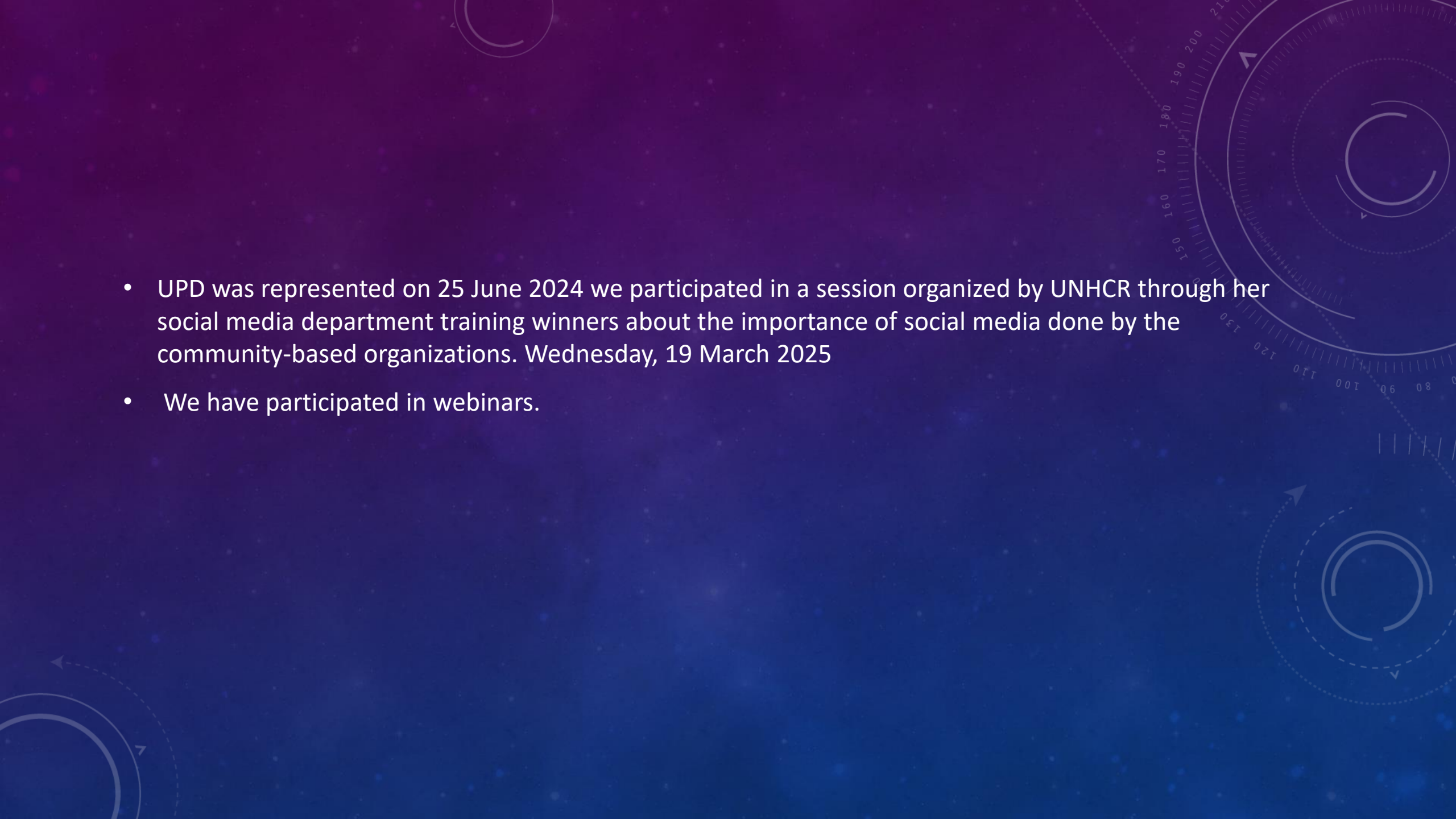
- We have maintained worthy communication with our partners and other sectors of security and individual for the better progress
- We serve Dzaleka community not only with English as foreigner language course
- The computer literacy course is implemented with great success
- Tailoring course is also provided in minimum due to lack of enough equipment.
- We have attended funerals and assisting the burial processes and provide coffins to each family that lost a UPD member.
- We Advocated for crutches and wheelchairs to the Plan international Malawi and other NGOs but we got few
- We attended police station and court for each case of person with disabilities at the Dowa court.
- We resumed the class on October 8th 2024 with 553, as 318 male and 235 female, as we started the intake from June and it will end up in December, we started the intake with 327 student as 178 male and 149 female. • We participated in the Mennonite distribution items that took place at community center hall, where 600 members (persons with disabilities and chronicle diseases) received soaps, saw, toothbrush, hand towels and others.
- We conducted on October 3, 2014, a workshop in Mponela, on harassment, abuse and GBV, led by the Exepert Phelire Malango and the board members of the organization participated in this fruitful.
- We resumed the classes on October 8, 2024 after short period of 3 weeks, one teacher named Bendjamin resigned after being with other during the period of 2 months.
- Chicken breeding project was resumed on October 5th, 2024, 340 chickens were for supporting the income of person with disabilities
- We engaged a new volunteer who is our driver from the date of October 1st, 2024

- The activity that started August still going well and learners are increased, we now have 25 when we started with 10, their names and details are available in the department of Youth.
- We conducted on November 03, 2014, a workshop took place to empower and equip the UPD board members in project management and reporting, all 11 members of UPD participated and the workshop was conducted by Mr. BOREL, an expert in project making, management and reporting.
- HD Camera, 2flash, draw, 3 laptops and a car.
- We started a secondary school construction to help student with disabilities to learn in an environment which is comfortable for him

REPRESENTATION

- We participated in the online meeting organized by the UNHCR/GENEVA for the three Global 2024 UNHCR award winners which appreciated our hard work of advocacy and equality, UPD has won an award among other organizations that applied also, we were invited by the UNHCR/GENEVA team to participate in the first meeting to know each other on 06 June and went back to participation in the winners celebration session that was led by the UNHCR world senior representative , we made a team of the coordinator Edouard Kaboyi, the Communicator and secretary Daniel Esengana, Jacqueline Shangaa Youth officer assistant and the Projects Manager Ruvubika Pierre.

- We have represented people living with disabilities in various meetings.
- Umoja Communication manager represented the organization in the meeting organized by the WOMEN FOR ACTION, a women-led organization that spoke about the Gender based violence regarding the refugee adolescents, that activity took place on Thursday 21 November 2024.
- We participated in the workshop organized by SOFERES that concerned to reduce and mitigating gender based violence in Dzaleka community, this activity takes place in Dzaleka refugee camp on October 30, 2024.
- We represented the UPD in a workshop that happened in Salima from 11 to 15, which was organized by a grantee organization named SIAM (Spinal Injuries association in Malawi) supported technically by DRF, we have two persons, the Coordinator and the Project Coordinator, we have equipped and capacitated in different topics as social inclusion, MEC (Malawi election commission)
- participation in the UN celebration of 60 years partnership with the government of Malawi.
- UPD was presented on October 31st, 2024 in Malingunde Resource Centre for the Blind, Lilongwe Rural West.
- The coordinator, the projects manager and youth assistant represented UPD at the convening organized by the FEDOMA (Federations of Disability Organizations in Malawi) and DRF (Disability Rights Fund) that started from 28 May to 31 May this at BICC (Bingu wa Mutharika International Conference Centre) in Lilongwe/ Malawi diving into disability rights and movements, advocacy, project management and many other national,, regional and international rights regarding the persons living with disabilities.

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- UPD was represented on 25 June 2024 we participated in a session organized by UNHCR through her social media department training winners about the importance of social media done by the community-based organizations. Wednesday, 19 March 2025
 - We have participated in webinars.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- UNHCR Malawi and Geneva, we won the UNHCR international Award in advocacy
- CRISIS RESPONSE FUND
- GNRD (Global Network of refugee with disabilities)
- Mennonite church
- DRF(Disabilities rights fund)
- FEDOMA
- Women for Action
- Ubuntu,
- DHAT,
- Rio Eco build,
- T & T Project,
- MACODA.
- Abilis foundation
- Plan Malawi
- Etc...

5. CHALLENGES :

1. challenges that persons with disabilities face

- We have lost two members one is Adidja who left three children with father and theirs who was an orphan reared by a certain volunteer due to poor treatment and the delay of transfer to good hospitals. This is a serious challenge, since the number of death increases while the assistance decreases.
- People who drink medicines every day and sleep long hours for epileptic issues, etc. 235 mattresses are needed for children and adults since they sleep down and unclean place that makes them victims of so many diseases including medications that they take are supposed to be taken after eating, but due to lack food they take them before eating and others they do not get their specific medicine. Thus, their prescription are interrupted and cause a lot health disorders.

- People who have Probe (Urine Ball) they have small special plastic bags that they do use and they cannot be washed they need to be changed, but they cannot afford them thus they need assistance.
- Those who do toilet where they are and other women who get monthly period have no access to thing like dippers, cortex, etc... for the sanitation.
- Many people with disabilities have no pots, plates, cups and other important dishware and houses have leakages.
- Some people with some critical illnesses whom doctors from Kamuzu central hospital report that their case they can be treated elsewhere or abroad, they are not assisted while enduring severe pains.
- Mostly gotten wheelchairs from Plan International Malawi are for children but given to old people which causes their easy damage and need of wheelchairs remain high.
- Those with devices in their body which need replacement are not assisted due to lack of specialists within the public hospitals therefore we met with.
- Lack of Crutches and wheel chairs need to be replacement are not easily to be gotten.

2. TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION CHALLENGES

- The challenge of Electricity & Stationaries Led to the late submission of some works.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS/NEEDS:

- Robust internet
- Power back up of Solar system note yet found
- Renovation of Media office and increase shooting equipment's
- Funds for implementing programs,
- Wheelchairs and Crutches
- Stationaries,

7. PLAN

- In 2025, we are will to raise up to USD150,000 for disability advocacy, assistance in implementing projects that will assist to fight against poverty for people with disabilities.

8. STATISTICS OF MEMEBRS

CATEGORY	REFUGEES				HOST COMMITY	TOTAL
	CHILDREN		ADULT		ALL	
Albinos	14		13		424	
Cardiology	17		49			
Sickle cell & Anemia	149		32			
Deaf & Dumb	19		2			
Cancer	2		29			
Epilepsy	223		94			
Mental	79		21			
Physical	281		293			
TOTAL	808		544			
GENDER AND AGE	MALE		FEMALE			
	Children	Adult	Children	Adult		

9. LIST OF DIED PEOPLE

NO	FULL NAME	SEX	AGE	DATE OF DEATH	HOSPITAL CERTIFICATION
1	Shimirimana Adidja	F		9 th Feb 2024	Dowa Hospital
2	Kabwette Kabemba Christelle	F	11	18 June 2024	Dzaleka Health Center

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND LOGISTIC REPORT 2024

SEMESTER SYNTHETIC TABLE

#	Month	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
1	January	MWK 3,795,000		
2	February	MWK 3,081,150		
3	March	MWK 4,756,700		
4	April	MWK 2,905,500		
5	May	MWK 3,249,000		
6	June	MWK 3,575,500		
7	July			
8	August	2,902,300	3,154,500	
9	September			
10	October			
11	November	2,682,450	8,889,550	
12	December			

11. GRATITUDE

We are deeply grateful to our donors and partners UNHCR, DRF, Mennonites Church, Ligiane and Beyond Sun Care for supporting and resourcing our programs and Activities in 2024!

Special thanks to the programs Director Mr. Ruvubika Pierre for his devoted service on seeking funds and plan for activities.

Special thanks to Mr. Eduard Kaboyi (KOCHA) for his devoted service to the board as UPD's chair person

We also want to acknowledge the labour of our 'Board Committee' members who make all plans and strategies. Decisions especially and all UPD team members for their profound contributions to our organizations in the year 2024.

12. CONTACT

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