

## THE ORPHAN CHILDREN AT REPO VILLAGE, MALAWI

Kondwani is about 10 years old, both his parents died of HIV and AIDS when he was three, he lives with his grand mother who is mentally ill. His life is story that brings tears in ones eyes. At his age he was supposed to be in standard eight but he is still in standard 1. He has got no choice, but to struggle in his life in order to survive, he goes to the gardens in the morning and then to school, but school is a problem as he does not have the resources to be in school. He does not have proper clothes to go school, he sometimes does not have soap to bath and wash his clothes, exercise books and writing materials are also his problem. He sometimes goes to school on empty stomach, how can one listen in class with the pangs of hunger in his or her stomach. Because of his situation of lack of proper parenthood and support, Kondwani is always found moving around the market with his friends of the same problem hunting for food, and he eats from the left overs. He is simply a street kid a thing he does not like to be. He suffers the beatings from big boys on drugs.



This picture of Kondwani was taken at the Christmas party which was organized by Sowing the seeds of love in Repo village.



Kondwani has also benefited from the chickens which were distributed by Sowing the seeds of love project courtesy of Lawrence Hoppis and his family. Kondwani in English may be translated as "enjoy" but his lie does not reflect this joy.



This is Dickens and his two brothers. Dickens is 9 years old, his brothers John is 5 and Talandira is 3. Dickens is the head of this household, the door is made up of grass, not safe for them to live in, they can easily be attacked by thugs or some dangerous animals. I remember Dickens telling me that last time they found a big snake in their house at night. I imagined a snake in these kids' house at night where there is no light, that made me develop some goose bumps. The problems of Kondwani are also the of Dickens and his brothers, No food, no clothes, no school materials, no money to buy soap and other basic materials. Life is so hard to Dickens and his brothers. Among the beneficiaries of chickens distributed by Sowing the seeds of love project Dickens and his brothers also benefited. Dickens is in standard 4 and dreams to become a pilot but has no idea how he can fulfill this dream and if at all he will.



This is Linda and her sister plus her very little brother in her hands. She is the head of the house. She is 12 years old and dropped out from school to take care of her little brother after her mother died. They live with their old grand father whose legs are numb and does not move. In this case the head of house is Linda as she is the one who always makes sure she hunts for food and the basic items the house may need. Linda is living dangerously because the measures she takes may get her HIV positive if she is not careful. Being a girl and living in such conditions, makes her so vulnerable to a lot of abuse. Linda and her family benefited from the mosquito nets and also the chickens plus the toys that were distributed by Sowing the seeds of love project.

My friend Lameck is 15, he is a school drop out, he lost both his parents when he is very young. Lameck has himself to feed and also his grand mother, he goes hunters for birds of which he sells and some he makes relish. As you can see in the small house he is taking in his hands, its full of birds. He has no choice but to do this in order to survive. He does not know that his actions are not friendly to nature. Life is so hard to Lameck. His grandmother is very old. Lameck benefited from the chickens and his grandmother benefited from the mosquito nets that were provided by Sowing the seeds of love project.



This is Abiti Kapito Lameck's grandmother.



In total there are thirty seven orphans in Repo village, out of which 21 are girls and 16 are boys, 13 of the orphans are from child headed homes. There are 8 child headed homes, 5 headed by boys and three headed by girls.





Kids having fun, playing with some clay toys

If these orphans are to be put in one facility, their life of problems will be history. They will be equipped with knowledge and skills through the Library, computer room and workshop. Whatever they can produce in the workshop, eg, carpentry, tailoring or welding, can be put up for sale on the market and money raised from there can be kept to meet their needs. I hope with the plans put up in the facility, sustainability is achievable even the time there are no donors.