

Tamandani "Praise" Chakhaza Empowerment Group, Dowa, Malawi

First Year Case Study Report

The Zoe Empowers program facilitator who works with your group provided the following report on the activities and achievements of a household supported by your partnership. Although each child is unique, this report reflects the challenges and progress of every household as they move through Zoe's empowerment model. Additional information about your group's progress follows this case study.

Head of Household: Stanley (21)

Challenges: Stanley lost his father in 2006 to tuberculosis. Prior to being sick, his father worked at a local health center and was able to provide food, books, uniform, shoes and other amenities for his family. Stanley's future looked bright and his father had enrolled him in his first term of primary school wanting his son to be well educated. However, Stanley's life was devastated after the death of his father, who was the family's sole breadwinner. His mother tried her best to establish a stable source of income but only found piece work, which was insufficient to satisfy their needs. Stanley's school attendance was irregular due to hunger and lack of new clothes. Despite having many relatives, no one came to their rescue. Stanley's life continued this way until he joined Zoe in May 2019.



Stanley in his tailoring shop, showing his tv screen for his video business.

The Dream: Training in the Dream process teaches the children how to develop a plan for achieving self-sufficiency and creating a Dream chart provides daily inspiration to work towards the goal. The following are Stanley's most recent responses to the Dream questions:

- What makes you feel sad? *Death of my father*
- What makes you happy? *Listening to the word of God and chatting with friends*
- What happens in the community that you do not like? *The increase of drug and alcohol abuse in my community*
- What is your dream for the future? *Owning multiple businesses and employing others*
- What will be your guiding principles to achieve your dream? *Hard work and faith in God*

Family Specific Achievements Because of Your Partnership

Income Generation: After joining Zoe, Stanley completed business training and opted for tailoring and designing enterprise. Zoe enrolled him in vocational training and upon completion in November 2019, provided him with a sewing machine and other relevant equipment to start his business. This marked the beginning of a new era in his life, a life full of possibilities and achievements. Due to his good tailoring skills, a primary school in his area hired



Stanley with a customer in his tailoring shop

Agricultural Projects and Food Security: Before Zoe, Stanley and his mother could only afford to eat one meal per day. Stanley and the group members received agricultural training through Zoe to equip them with knowledge and skills to improve food production and become food secure. They learned methods of conservation farming to ensure maximum yields, post-harvest crop storage, climate-smart agriculture, and maize production. After training, each family received certified maize seed and fertilizer to prepare their fields. Stanley leased a piece of farmland, purchased soybean seed and planted both crops. He harvested two tons of maize and one and a half tons of soybeans. He sold his soybean yield for additional income and stored the maize to establish and ensure food security. Stanley and his mother now eat three nutritious, balanced meals daily.



Stanley and his maize harvest

Health and Housing: Stanley attended training on disease prevention and personal, environmental, and food hygiene. Following the trainings, he implemented good hygiene practices at his home and his family's living conditions have improved tremendously. He ensured his home has a proper bathroom and covered toilet. He also employed men to construct a garbage pit for proper trash disposal.

Education: Stanley has chosen to focus on his many businesses to provide for his family's well-being rather than re-enroll in school.

Child Rights and Community Connections: Training on child rights was conducted to equip all group members with knowledge on their rights and responsibilities as well as proper procedures to report cases of abuse. Previously, the family felt isolated in their community due to their poor economic status. Community members now treat his family with respect, appreciating the good services Stanley provides through his tailoring and his video showroom businesses. Stanley's self-esteem has increased and he feels more valued than ever before.



Stanley with the bicycle he purchased

Spiritual Strengthening: After going through a difficult period following his father’s death, Stanley blamed God and his faith deteriorated. Through Zoe’s love and support, Stanley realized that God loves him and has always been there for his family. His faith has been revitalized and he puts God first in his life and businesses.

Prayer Requests: Stanley asks for God to protect his mother and his business activities in order for him to achieve his dream and make his mother happy.

GENERAL UPDATES ON THE TAMANDANI “PRAISE” CHAKHAZA EMPOWERMENT GROUP

Group Activities and Income Projects: Tamandani Chakhaza Empowerment Group farms maize as their joint income project. Zoe provided them with fertilizer, maize seed, and a grant to lease two acres of land. They harvested four tons of maize their first season, selling half of the yield to earn income for the group and storing the remaining yield for their future use or to sell when prices rise. The group also has a table banking initiative providing members a savings platform by buying shares. Members can borrow loans from the table bank at a low interest rate to boost their businesses.

Food Security and Agricultural Projects: Sixty percent of the Tamandani Group households planted maize and the remaining planted soybean crops last season. Each family harvested a reasonable yield, averaging two tons of maize or one ton of soy beans respectively. Additionally, 16 households have kitchen gardens growing additional vegetables for consumption. Zoe provided seven households with pigs and five households with goats.

Income Generating Activities: During their first year in Zoe, 24 members started businesses. Eight members received startup kits (and respective vocational training if needed) and 16 members received grants to start their income generating activities. The remaining members are completing vocational training or rely on farming to generate income.

The following chart displays the types of businesses currently running and number of households involved.

Type of business	# of youth
Tailoring	1
Carpentry	3
Barbershop	2
Salon	2
Grocery shop	6
Tearoom	3
Cooking oil	2
Bakery	2
Selling shoes	1
Selling second-hand clothes	2
Total	24