**APDM ASSISTIVE DEVICES WORKSHOP PROJECT**

**Executive Summary**

The Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities in Malawi (APDM), is a registered local non-governmental organization founded in 2004 by persons with disabilities in Malawi. APDM is active in promoting the wellbeing of persons with physical disabilities throughout the country. APDM is seeking support to establish an Assistive Devices Centre with the mission of mitigating the mobility challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Malawi. It is expected that the establishment of this center will result into increased access to assistive devices, mobility aides and empowerment by persons with physical disabilities in Malawi.

The project of establishing the center is anticipated to last for 24 months at an estimated cost of **$ 768,304.00**. The cost includes; construction of center facilities (workshops, dormitories, warehouse rooms and offices), purchase of center equipment and amenities and cost of training the center staff.

**Background and Problem Analysis**

It is estimated that there are more than 70 million people worldwide who require wheelchairs and other assistive devices, yet only 5 - 15% of people have access to such devices. People in Malawi, just like any other developing country often depend on the donation of wheelchairs, which are frequently of poor quality and not suitable either for the users or their environment[[1]](#footnote-1). According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), mobility devices enable persons with disabilities to achieve personal mobility, and access to these devices is a precondition for achieving equal opportunities, enjoying human rights and living in dignity. Article 20 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) highlights the responsibility of States to take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, and a corresponding responsibility to promote and ensure availability and access to mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies (UN, 2006). Assistive devices, when appropriate to the user and the user’s environment, have been shown to be powerful tools to increase independence and improve participation.

In Malawi, following the inactiveness of Malawi Against Physical Disabilities (MAP), many Malawians with physical disabilities have challenges to access rehabilitation services and have no mobility aids such as tri-cycles, wheel chairs, crutches, callipers and other mobility assistive devices. As such, they are being denied equal access to education, employment, health, association and many other social amenities due to mobility challenges.

To this end, a person with a disability is destined to a life of dependency. For the rural poor the challenges are extreme. Disabled children do not go to school and hardly leave their homes, while disabled adults do not do any work to support themselves. Those who do, mostly crawl around the environment, thereby exposing themselves to various health hazards.

Currently, Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACOHA) and Malawi Against Physical Disabilities (MAP) provides support such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. These institutions have their services centres in two major cities in Malawi (Blantyre and Lilongwe) providing rehabilitation and therapeutic services. However, all these two reliable service providers rely on imported mobility aids such as wheelchairs, crutches etc., and thy do not easily reach out to disabled people in the rural areas. As such, they do not provide such aids for free to patients, and they sale them at a very expensive price. Except at times when the mobility aids have come as a donation through a charity organisation, then people receive them for free although mostly are not enough. Apparently, persons with disabilities in Malawi are struggling to access and use the environment due to mobility challenges, as demonstrated by APDM[[2]](#footnote-2)’s data, on average 87.6% of persons with physical disabilities are in need of mobility aids in Malawi. A condition which has put the majority of persons with physical disabilities into a hopeless and dependency life.

It is against this background that APDM is establishing a Assistive Devices Center in Zomba district to start making assistive devices and mobility aides targeting rural population in Malawi.

**Description of the Project**

APDM Assistive Devices Centre, is being set up in Zomba district to cater for the mobility needs of persons with disabilities in rural areas. APDM Assistive Devices Centre is serving a population of approximately over 1,800,000 children and adults with disabilities of varying levels of severity, ranging from mild/moderate to severe in Malawi.

APDM Assistive Devices Centre provides durable and affordable assistive devices and mobility appliances, and therapy based programmes to address the unique needs of persons with disabilities in rural and semi-urban areas.

From the conception of the idea of setting up the centre, APDM Assistive Devices Centre is designed and planned to accommodate its growing number of clients in the country. It is the hope of APDM Assistive Devices Centre to continue with its commitment of providing care and meaningful lifelong empowerment to its clients through education, rehabilitation and administration.

**Project Goal**

APDM Assistive Devices Centre is set up to provide holistic care and to empower persons with disabilities with the necessary knowledge and skills in order for them to lead fulfilling lives.

**Objectives**

The centre is set up to fulfil the following objectives:

1. Produce and distribute assistive devices and mobility appliances using high quality affordable technologies.
2. Create awareness on causes, prevention and management of physical disabilities.
3. Promote quality rehabilitation and empowerment services for persons with physical disabilities in Malawi.
4. Promote the use of outreach forums to identify, assess and support persons with disabilities in need of assistive devices and empowerment services in rural and remote areas

**Activities**

The following activities are carried out by the centre:

1. **Assistive appliances production**
2. **Multi-disciplinary Disability Assessment**
3. **Empowerment**
	1. Prevocational, vocational and life skills training
	2. On the job training in some companies to selected senior students
4. **Outreach and educational visits to the villages far away from the centre**

**Budget for APDM Workshop Project:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Construction of an Assistive Devices Centre for People with Disabilities in Malawi**  |
|  | **Estimated Rate Used (1 USD to MWK)** |  **730.00**  |
| **Nr.** | **Expenditure** | **Quantity** | **Unit** |  **Price**  | **Total (MWK)** | **Total (USD)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Construction of an Assistive Devices Workshop for People with Disabilities in Malawi** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A** | **Workshop Tools** |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Machine Unit Tools | 15.00 | Pieces |  10,950,000.00  | 164,250,000.00 | 172,712.93 |
|   | CNC Unit Tools | 4.00 | Pieces |  7,555,500.00  | 30,222,000.00 | 31,779.18 |
|   | Forging Unit Tools | 7.00 | Pieces |  2,555,000.00  | 17,885,000.00 | 18,806.52 |
|   | Fitting Unit Tools | 3.00 | Pieces |  1,750,000.00  | 5,250,000.00 | 5,520.50 |
|   | Wood Work tools | 5.00 | Toolboxes |  750,000.00  | 3,750,000.00 | 3,943.22 |
|   | Foundry Tools | 2.00 | Pieces |  14,965,000.00  | 29,930,000.00 | 31,472.13 |
|   | Welding Tools | 3.00 | Toolboxes |  1,650,000.00  | 4,950,000.00 | 5,205.05 |
|  | ***Subtotal A*** |  |  |  | ***256,237,000.00*** | **269,439.54** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **B** | **Construction**  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Machine Unit | 1 | Room |  5,450,000.00  | 5,450,000.00 | 5,730.81 |
|  | CNC Unit | 1 | Room |  3,000,000.00  | 3,000,000.00 | 3,154.57 |
|  | Forging Unit | 1 | Room |  2,500,000.00  | 2,500,000.00 | 2,628.81 |
|  | Fitting Unit | 1 | Room |  3,000,000.00  | 3,000,000.00 | 3,154.57 |
|  | Wood Work | 1 | Room |  2,750,000.00  | 2,750,000.00 | 2,891.69 |
|  | Foundry | 1 | Room |  2,500,000.00  | 2,500,000.00 | 2,628.81 |
|  | Welding | 1 | Room |  3,000,000.00  | 3,000,000.00 | 3,154.57 |
|  | Offices | 6 | Room |  1,200,000.00  | 7,200,000.00 | 7,570.98 |
|  | Warehouses | 2 | Room |  5,500,000.00  | 11,000,000.00 | 11,566.77 |
|  | Domitories/Staff quarters | 10 | Room |  3,500,000.00  | 35,000,000.00 | 36,803.36 |
|  | ***Subtotal B*** |  |  |  | ***75,400,000.00*** | **79,284.96** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| **C** | **Materials** |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | Metal work | 5.00 | pieces |  250,000.00  | 1,250,000.00 | 1,314.41 |
|   | Woodwork | 5.00 | pieces |  120,000.00  | 600,000.00 | 630.91 |
|   | Mechanical/engineering | 5.00 | pieces |  200,000.00  | 1,000,000.00 | 1,051.52 |
|  | ***Subtotal C*** |  |  |  | ***2,850,000.00*** | **2,996.85** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| **C** | **Transport Costs for outreach activities** |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | Travel | 28 | Districts |  600,000.00  | 16,800,000.00 | 17,665.62 |
|   | Accommodation | 28 | Districts |  1,800,000.00  | 50,400,000.00 | 52,996.85 |
|   | Meals | 28.00 | Districts |  750,000.00  | 21,000,000.00 | 22,082.02 |
|   | Communication | 28 | Districts |  150,000.00  | 4,200,000.00 | 4,416.40 |
|  | ***Subtotal C*** |  |  |  | ***92,400,000.00*** | **97,160.88** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| **D** | **Training of workshop technicians** |  |  |  |  |   |
|   |  Trainings and Coaching  |  2.00  |  Worshops  |  3,650,000.00  |  7,300,000.00  | 7,676.13 |
|  | ***Subtotal D*** |  |  |  | ***7,300,000.00*** | **7,676.13** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|  | ***Subtotal 1 (Total of all sub-projects A - D)*** |  |  |  | ***434,187,000.00*** | **456,558.36** |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| **2** | **Other project equipments and support** |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | 4X4 Vehicles | 3 | Pieces |  45,000,000.00  |  135,000,000.00  | 141,955.84 |
|   | Van | 2 | Pieces |  12,000,000.00  |  24,000,000.00  | 25,236.59 |
|   | Lorry | 1 | Pieces |  25,000,000.00  |  25,000,000.00  | 26,288.12 |
|   | Laptop Computers | 4 | Pieces |  800,000.00  |  3,200,000.00  | 3,364.88 |
|   | Desktop Computers | 8 | Pieces |  500,000.00  |  4,000,000.00  | 4,206.10 |
|   | Digital Camera | 3 | Pieces |  250,000.00  |  750,000.00  | 788.64 |
|   | Personnel Costs | 5 | people |  20,400,000.00  |  102,000,000.00  | 107,255.52 |
|   | Office supplies | 12 | Months |  180,000.00  |  2,160,000.00  | 2,271.29 |
|   | Bank Charges | 12 | Months |  30,000.00  |  360,000.00  | 378.55 |
|  | ***Subtotal 2*** |  |  |  | ***296,470,000.00*** | **311,745.53** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | **Total sum being requested for project** |  |  | **100.00%** | **730,657,000.00** | **768,303.89** |

1. <http://www.who.int/disabilities/technology/wheelchairpackage/en/>, Accessed 11:04 AM on 02/04/2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Association of the Physically Disabled in Malawi [↑](#footnote-ref-2)