Open Arms Malawi

Information Pack

Why we exist

Every day, around 300 children in Malawi become orphaned.

Many have relatives to care for them, but poverty makes it difficult to provide the nutrition they need - especially for young babies.

This threatens their health, development and survival, and increases the likelihood of them ending up in institutional care.

Building brighter futures by strengthening every part of a child's world.

Our mission

We believe *every* child deserves to grow up safe, healthy and loved within the care of a family.

For over 30 years, Open Arms Malawi has been working alongside vulnerable children and the people who care for them. What began as a response to babies in crisis has grown into a holistic, locally-led approach that strengthens families, empowers communities and creates the conditions for children to thrive.

We strengthen the people, families and systems that every child depends on.

This simple belief shapes everything we do. By investing in every part of a child's world, we create lasting change that helps children survive, thrive and fulfil their potential.

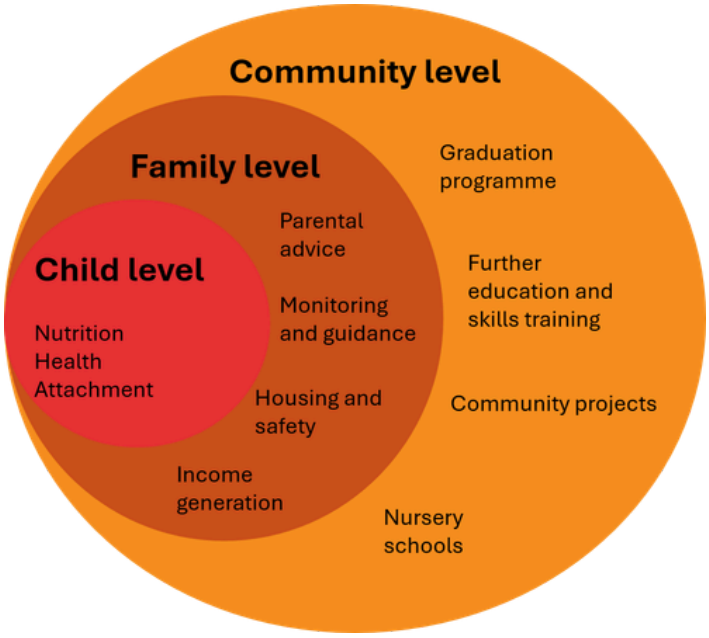
Our approach: an eco-system of support

We know that no single intervention can transform a child's future.

A baby may recover from malnutrition, but without a secure family income they remain vulnerable. A caregiver may receive training, but without access to education and community support, opportunities remain limited.

Lasting change happens when every part of a child's world is strengthened.

That's why we've built an interconnected ecosystem of support, where every part of our work reinforces the others:



Protecting children

The earliest years of a child's life are the most critical.

Through **Community-Based Care**, we provide vulnerable babies with lifesaving nutrition, access to healthcare, daily essentials, developmental monitoring and practical support, helping them survive and thrive within the love and security of their own families.

Strengthening families

Children flourish when families are strong.

Through our **Graduation Programme**, we help caregivers build sustainable livelihoods through agriculture, financial literacy and business training, enabling families to overcome extreme poverty, improve food security and create brighter futures for the children in their care.

Empowering communities

Strong communities create brighter futures for generations.

Alongside our direct work with children and families, we invest in the people and services that support them. Through **Community Nursery Schools** and training centres, we are helping to strengthen early years education, improve family-based care and build resilient communities where children can thrive.

Together, these interconnected areas of work create lasting change that reaches far beyond any one child or family.

Why partner with Open Arms?

As a small charity, we believe our size is one of our greatest strengths.

We build genuine, long-term relationships with our funding partners, offering open communication, thoughtful stewardship and meaningful reporting that demonstrates the true impact of every grant.

Our work is delivered by experienced Malawian staff working closely with government departments, community leaders and local partners. Rather than creating parallel systems, we strengthen the families, services and community networks that already exist - helping local solutions flourish long after our direct support has ended.

Every programme is carefully monitored and evaluated through regular home visits, outcome tracking and detailed reporting, enabling us to demonstrate measurable outcomes while continually learning and improving.

We measure outcomes including:

- children's health and development
- nutritional recovery
- household food security
- agricultural productivity
- income generation
- financial resilience
- early childhood education participation

By investing in long-term solutions rather than ongoing dependency, families graduate from support with greater resilience, stronger livelihoods and brighter futures for their children.

What your partnership makes possible

Partnering with Open Arms strengthens every part of a child's world, meeting immediate needs while creating lasting change.

Together, we can help make possible:

- Lifesaving nutrition, access to healthcare and family support for vulnerable babies and young children.
- Sustainable livelihoods that enable families to overcome extreme poverty and care for their children with confidence.
- Quality early years education and nutritious daily meals through community-led nursery schools.
- Professional development for nursery teachers through our upcoming Early Learning Development Centre.
- Improved standards of foster care through specialist training for families caring for children who cannot remain with their immediate relatives.
- Stronger communities where children are protected, families are resilient and local systems continue to grow.

Every investment contributes to something greater than a single project - it strengthens an ecosystem of support that helps children survive today and flourish for years to come.

Building brighter futures together

We believe every child deserves the opportunity not only to survive, but to reach their full potential.

We also know this is only possible through partnership, and we see every Trust and Foundation as a valued partner in our work.

When you support Open Arms, you can expect:

- responsive communication
- timely reporting
- meaningful case studies and impact stories
- robust monitoring and evaluation
- responsible stewardship of your funding
- opportunities to develop a long-term partnership

Together with partners who share our vision and commitment, we are strengthening the support systems that every child depends on - building brighter futures for children across Malawi.

We would love to explore how your funding priorities align with our work and how, together, we can create lasting impact.

Open Arms Malawi at a glance

30+ years supporting vulnerable children in Malawi

Long-term partnerships with Trusts, Foundations and corporate sponsors

Locally led programme delivery

Whole family, whole community approach

Up to 100 vulnerable babies and their families supported annually

Over 50 families progressing towards self-sufficiency through agricultural extension

9 community nursery schools reaching 600+ children

Robust monitoring and transparent reporting

Registered charity number 1171686