



UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI

College of Medicine

**Elements of Well Functioning Community-Based Health
Organisations in Mangochi District, Malawi**

By

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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DECLARATION

I, Levi Graham Soko hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented for any other awards at the University of Malawi or any other University.

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Date 15th December 2007

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ABSTRACT:

Background: In an attempt to maximise use of local resources and build sense of ownership, health related government departments and donor agencies prefer to engage community-based health organisations (CBHOs) to design and implement health programmes at community level. Some CBHOs perform effectively in implementing community health programmes, while others fail.

Objective: This study attempts to establish whether good performance of CBHOs in Mangochi District, is influenced by application of a set of seven elements namely; community involvement, means of accessibility, means of increasing resource availability, programme acceptability, information system, intersectoral collaboration, and administrative capacity.

Method: Thirty-six, randomly selected CBHOs were classified into *successful* and *non-successful* CBHOs as assessed by local communities themselves, using Focus Group Discussion survey instrument. A coded checklist (*see annex 1*) was administered to executive committee members of the selected CBHOs to find whether the CBHO apply the elements and to what extent. Findings from the coded checklist were tabulated and analysed using logistic regression, to establish whether there is association between application of these elements and good performance of the CBHO.

Findings and Conclusion: The study established that the application of the elements has a positive influence on performance of CBHOs. Based on the findings, it is concluded that CBHOs need to apply the elements if they are to improve on the way they function.

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ACRONYMS

ADC	Area Development Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARVs	Antiretroviral drugs
CAC	Community AIDS Committee
CBCCC	Community-Based Child Care Centre
CBHC	Community Based Health Care
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CBHOs	Community-Based Health Organisation(s)
CHW	Community Health Worker
C.I.	Confidence Interval
COMREC	College of Medicine Research Ethics Committee
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HBC	Home Based Care
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MANASO	Malawi Network of AIDS Services Organisations
MSF	Medicines sans Frontiers
MoH	Ministry of Health
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NACC	Namwera AIDS Coordinating Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSO	National Statistical Office
PHC	Primary Health Care
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
U S A	United States of America
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing