

CHANGING LIVES

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Foreword



Hazel Nyathi
National Director

“Above All Love...” is the slogan that marked the beginning of Financial Year (FY) 2019 in World Vision through the Day of Prayer held in our offices across the country. The theme is based on John 15:12-13, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Love continues to be at the heart of our calling as we pursue Our Promise 2030. The first quarter of our financial year is always marked with busy schedules as we finalise the previous year reporting processes in a bid to be accountable to our partners and at the same time set things in motion for the new financial year. At the same time, our impact communities are also busy preparing their fields since this is the beginning of the rainy season.

We thank God for the grace and all that has been accomplished during this quarter; we started off the journey with 35 Area Programmes complemented by 32 grants implemented across the country, through our strategy which is now aligned which was aligned to Our Promise 2030.

We celebrate that during the quarter World Vision Malawi made history in partnership with the Government of Malawi, with support from Global Fund we distributed 10,685,083 Long Lasting Insecticide Treated nets in all the districts of Malawi and reached 92,648 households with malaria prevention and treatment messages with support from Global Fund.

During the same period, 659,265 children were reached through our participation in the Child Health Day Campaign where we contributed deworming and micronutrient supplements to the Ministry of Health.

Through our food for assets programme and Lean Season response in partnership with the government of Malawi and World Food Programme, our relief work reached 661,000 people in Chikwawa, Zomba and Neno districts.

Because we have the child at the centre of all our programs, we always strive to improve. This far, we monitored the status of 95,542 children under our sponsorship programme and continued to promote Water sanitation and hygiene, education, health and nutrition counselling, household food security interventions reaching, to over 900,000 children.

All this would not have been accomplished without the commitment of our partners; the trust of the communities put in us and the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteers who were able to reach the remotest parts of the country with such services.

We will continue to serve with love in the next quarter, continue with our resource mobilisation efforts, and work even harder to reach the most vulnerable child in Malawi ■

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

- John 15:12-13

Unlocking literacy shines at 2018 annual learning event

After a full day of viewing 10 pavilions, 13 judges drawn from World Vision's Support Offices, United Nations in Malawi and Malawi Government, it was unanimously agreed that Unlocking Literacy, as presented by 12 year old Bridget, is both the present and the future.

The gathering unanimously agreed that Bridget is living proof that, given opportunity, children can lead, even today.

All this happened on 26th November during World Vision Malawi's 2018 Annual Learning Event (ALE) which tried to assess and celebrate Area Programs ability to innovate and effectively interpret the organization's 'Our Promise 2030' strategy in their implementation of projects that respond to needs of children and poor communities.

The Standard 6 learner, inspired by World Vision Malawi's Unlocking Literacy initiative that promotes out of school learning through fun activities, decided to open her own 'Reading Camp' behind her grandmother's Kitchen in Mpherere, Ntchisi district. From there, for two years, she has been gathering her friends to teach them basic literacy skills.

But before she changed her friend's stories, she remembered that charity begins at home. Bridget has successfully taught her father, Fraser, how to read and right in Chichewa, her national language.

Today, her father, Fraser, a local builder, is reaping gains courtesy of the new literacy skills passed on from his daughter.

"Learning how to read and write has enabled me to excel in my construction business and support my family. At first it was hard to do read the measurements or write something for my clients, but with the help of Bridget, I can now do all that smoothly" says Fraser, smiling.

Bridget says she is happy she is making a difference in her community. That is all the shy looking 12 year old is proud of. Her smile comes and goes in a speck of a second. She still had to lead her four friends and Teacher to the podium to lift the biggest trophy of the day.

"This award has encouraged me to continue teaching my friends how to read and write. I enjoy teaching them and I will continue doing, so" said Bridget. Speaking on behalf of the judges, Agnes Muvira- Kilomera said the child led literacy promotion, stood out because of its involvement of children and how it is impacting children and their community.

World Vision Malawi Director of Programs said it is through spaces like these that World Vision as an organization can reflect, celebrate and learn how it is measuring up to its commitment in bringing change to the lives of the most vulnerable children of Malawi.

"Today we have reflected on our work as a Christian Organization that has been working in the country since 1982. We are an organization that believes in learning and today, we had this opportunity to reflect on our work and celebrate the contributions we are making towards supporting the Malawi Government in improving the lives of children," said Charles Chimombo.

"This award has encouraged me to continue teaching my friends how to read and write. I enjoy teaching them and I will continue doing so."



Yuyan Hsu of Taiwan support office poses with Bridget (holding trophy) and her friends.

Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

Today, her father, Fraser, a local builder, is reaping gains courtesy of the new literacy skills passed on from his daughter.

Other interventions that were showcased were; Care Group cooking demonstrations using local foods, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration that has enabled Pastors from Neno to embark on holy wine making using honey from local producers, organic farming for agricultural productivity, learner to learner hygiene behavior change promotion, Social Accountability and Responsibility through Citizen Voice and Action, Food For Assets interventions as well as Data Management for Child wellbeing impact■

World Vision Malawi distributes 10.5 million Mosquito Nets

Nearly 16 million Malawians are safe from Malaria, thanks to the 10.6 million Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLIN) Mosquito Nets distributed by World Vision across the country's 28 districts.

World Vision's chief of party Alexander Chikonga says the exercise was successful and is now rolling out into its last phase where they are reconciling nets received and distributed against registered beneficiaries.

The distribution exercise was coordinated by National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) in conjunction with its cooperating partner, National Taskforce.

NMCP manager Dr Michael Kayange, confirmed that World Vision has distributed 10,685,083 nets against the 10.9 million mosquito nets that had been procured to be given to over 4 million Malawian households that were registered as recipients.

At a joint press conference held recently in Lilongwe with World Vision's Chikonga and National Taskforce chairperson Happy Kondowe, Dr Kayange said the only daunting task is to ensure that Malawians properly use the nets.

"We did enough community sensitization and mobilization before the distribution of the mosquito nets to make sure that the exercise achieved its purpose," he said.

Malaria remains one of the main killer diseases in sub-Saharan Africa with Malawi registering 10 malaria-related deaths every day and six million cases of the disease every year.

The prevalence rate for malaria in Malawi's rural areas is as high as 30 percent while in urban centres it is at 4 percent.



A child holds her mosquito net in Chiradzulu. Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

Dr Kayange observed that these figures mean that almost the entire Malawian population is affected by malaria, a situation he feared is negatively affecting the country's social-economic development.

"We still have a duty as cooperating partners to sensitize people on the need to use these nets properly so that we are seen to be really controlling the spread of malaria," he emphasized.

Largest families in Malawi have received a maximum of four LIINs,

30%

The prevalence rate for malaria in Malawi's rural areas is as high as 30 percent while in urban centres it is at 4%.

6

million

Malawi registering 10 malaria-related deaths every day and six million cases of the disease every year.

"We did enough community sensitization and mobilization before the distribution of the mosquito nets to make sure that the exercise achieved its purpose."

with the expectation that two members can share a net. It is expected that Malaria cases will fall by nearly 50 percent following the distribution of the nets.

"A lot of households were struggling with malaria because of mosquitos", said Patricia Madi. She is a Lead Mother under World Vision who supervises visits to 100 homes and advice on health, nutrition and disease prevention in the area of Sub Traditional Authority in Onga.

"People couldn't afford buying nets. Only a few that are better off could manage mosquito repellent coils as the rest suffered from the disease. But now that people have received these nets, for free, we are sure that malaria cases will fall in our community", added Patricia.

In a country of 17.5 million people, half the population lives in extreme poverty.

According to a report by the European Alliance Against Malaria, there is an intimate relationship between poverty and Malaria.

As both a root cause and a consequence of poverty, malaria robs people of productive hours of work. Furthermore, the human suffering and loss of life caused by malaria is often matched by the economic burden placed on families who bear the direct costs from their own pockets. Personal expenditure includes spending on insecticide-treated nets, doctors' fees, anti-malaria drugs, transport to health facilities, support to the patient and funeral costs. This puts an unbearable strain on household resources ■



Beneficiaries showing off their LMMS cards. Photo: World Vision, Wezzie Banda

Gospel Artist Vows to Fight Against Child Marriage

One of World Vision Malawi's Ambassadors on It Takes Malawi to End Child Marriage Campaign, Faith Mussa, has vowed to do all he can to advocate against child marriages in Malawi. The afro Soul singer, songwriter and guitarist also known as Malawi's "electronic one man band" said this in Blantyre recently as he launched his 'Midi Album'.

Speaking to a gathering of over 500 people, Mussa said that while children face multiple challenges in Malawi, a study by World Vision had found child marriage to be the worst and in need of urgent attention in order to meet the country's development goals.

"Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world with approximately 1 in 2 girls married



“Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world with approximately 1 in 2 girls married by the age of 18. In total, 42 percent are married off at 18”



Faith Mussa performing at one of his concerts. Photo: Zeeya Creations



Memory speaks at Faith Mussa's Concept. Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

“There is more that needs to be done.”

by the age of 18. In total, 42 percent are married off at 18”, said Mussa before he invited on stage, Memory, a survivor of child marriage who was rescued by Inkosi Kachindamoto, another Ambassador of the campaign.

In her remarks, 19 year old Memory thanked efforts of organisations like World Vision and Chiefs around the country for standing up to the vice.

“But there is more that needs to be done”, said Memory. “The girls coming from marriages need to be helped to believe that there is something for them in life and supported to get basic and formal education, which they

cannot afford”.

Memory is now in her second year at the Polytechnic in Blantyre where she is studying for a Degree in Environmental Health.

Mussa then capped up his advocacy hour with his song ‘Anawa’, touted to become the It Takes Malawi to End Child Marriage Campaign theme song in the future.

In the hit, slowly becoming a strong force in speaking for the girl child, Mussa challenges people and communities to give the girl a chance, uphold their rights and let them stay in school and live her dream.

“I did this song I wrote as a teacher, specifically advocating for children’s rights, especially the right to education. It’s a cry from a child; I want to learn, I want to go to school, I want to achieve my dreams”, said Mussa.

World Vision Malawi launched its campaign on Ending Violence against Children (VAC) in 2017 and its main theme is: “It Takes Malawi to end Child Marriages”. The overall aim of the Campaign is to reduce child marriages by 20 percent come 2023.

Malawi’s First Lady, Gertrude Mutharika, launched the World Vision campaign in March 2018 alongside United States Ambassador, Virginia Palmer ■

Beneficiaries Hail LMMS

Recipients of Long Lasting Treated Mosquito Nets in Neno district have hailed the Last Mile Mobile distribution system for the timely distributions they had in the district.

A total of 81,198 LLINs were distributed to 30,331 households, benefiting about 149,370 beneficiaries.

According to District Environmental Health Officer for Neno, the use of LMMS helped prevent a recurrence of a scenario three years ago when manual data sheets went missing, leaving out other beneficiaries from the exercise.

“In the past, our data management was not so good. An extreme case was where an entire village’s register was lost prior to distributions. This led to the entire village not being given their entitlement thus leaving them vulnerable to Malaria”, he recalled, stressing that he would be happy to see this scaled up to other districts.

“Imagine today we have fully reconciled all nets that we were given and we were actually the first district across the country to finish with our distributions, thanks to the lmms innovation”, added Mpoha.

According to Loyce Magombo, World Vision’s Malaria Global Fund Project

Officer for Neno, LMMS was user friendly such that all Health Surveillance Assistants in the district were able to participate in the exercise.

Speaking over a month after winding their distributions, Dickson Kafa who is also Group Village Headman

Chidakwani of Traditional Authority Chekucheku said that people were happy that they did not have to spend a lot of time at distribution sites, hearing out names as they easily lined up and had their cards scanned before receiving.

“It was very decent and orderly all the way, no scrambling for a turn as we all walked peacefully and presented our cards”, he said, before pledging that his subjects will put the nets to their intended use.

“We have set up bylaws that will be used to discipline those who will abuse these nets because we know that those who have given us these nets have not done so because they have a lot of money, but they know our problem of Malaria and want to help us”, said GVH Chidakwani.

In the ongoing exercise, World Vision Malawi has distributed 10.5 Million Mosquito Nets to over three million households ■

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A thriving man-made forest in Chikwawa. Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

Soil and water conservation intervention saves Chisuzi and Mkanda communities

Kenneth Scott has vivid memories of a robust, forest-packed Ulumba hill, some few kilometers from the old Capital City, Zomba.

In those days, he recalls, the hill had a lot of natural vegetation and wild animals and he was amongst the youths who were plucking wild fruits and hunting when all was rosy.

“Over the years, we (the people of this area) cut down the trees in the hill and used them for charcoal or other household activities. As a result wild animals got killed or ran away and water used to rush downhill, carrying away the soil with it,” says Scott, Chairperson for Chisuzi Village Committee of the Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) project being implemented by World Vision and World Food Programme (WFP) in the area.

The deforestation created yet another problem for Loney Tayale and all those with houses and gardens near the hill.

“Every rainy season, water used to rush downhill and washed away my garden and the crops, which resulted in hunger all the time. Before the coming of this intervention, I used to harvest about six bags only from my garden which is about an acre, but since we started last year, things have changed and for the first time, I harvested 18 bags of maize from my garden,” says Loney.

Under the project, the communities have constructed check dams to control the speed of water downhill, swales to increase water filtration in the gardens and vetiver grass to control the flow of water.

According to Scott, the soil and water conservation project came as a

29,056

The FFA project has benefitted 29,056 households in the district.

1,109

Each of the 1,109 beneficiaries works for 12 days and at the end of the month receive a food package in appreciation of the services rendered to improving their own livelihoods at family and community level.

result of a project proposal they as a community wrote through the Village Development Committee (VDC) after they noted that all their efforts to harvest enough from their gardens were not paying off due to the serious environmental degradation they had caused to their own hill.

“We used to have a number of incidences each year, where water would enter into people’s houses because there was nothing to stop its fast flow down the hill. Property was being destroyed and people were suffering a lot,” he says.

Under the FFA project which started in October 2017, the communities are digging deep trenches to trap the water from up the hill, planting trees using modern techniques that ensure high survival rate (using eye brows), construction of check dams in the hill and also construction of swales. Each of the 1,109 beneficiaries works for 12 days and at the end of the month receive a food package in appreciation of the services rendered to improving their own livelihoods at family and community levels.

“This is our own project and World Vision and its partners have just come to support us. Even after they leave, we shall be using the knowledge they have given us,” adds Scott.

As a community, the people of Chisuzi have come up with by-laws which provide guidelines on how the communities are to look after the natural resources as well as penalties for anyone who destroys the environment in any form.

The challenges that overwhelmed Chisuzi area are similar to the ones people of Mkanda faced, some half an hour drive away from Chisuzi. Every rainy season, the water used to flow down Mkanda hill to streams, carrying the soil and crops with it. This made the area less fertile, resulting in poor harvests.

Matilda Chikoko, Chairperson for Mkanda Committee, says the area started benefiting from the FFA project in July 2017 and since then, the

beneficiaries have constructed check dams, swales, deep trenches and have also planted trees in the hill which has started recovering its vegetation.

“The soil and water conservation initiatives we are implementing are already bearing fruits for us. In an effort to increase our income base, we have also embarked on bee keeping and production of drought-resistant sweet potatoes, so that we can sell for profit and use the proceeds for economic needs of our families,” she says.

Joyce Nyambi, 38, explains that before the intervention, hunger used to affect her family and affected her children’s concentration at school.

“You know, when you are a hungry person, you always look foolish in the eyes of people. Now, we are able to feed ourselves as a family. The food assistance is also contributing to our food security,” says Joyce, one of the 992 beneficiaries from her community.

The FFA project has benefitted 29,056 households in the district, with a total population of 159,808, since 2015 when World Vision started implementing various interventions under the project ■

“This is our own project and World Vision and its partners have just come to support us. Even after they leave, we shall be using the knowledge they have given us.”



A Woman pruning a tree in Zomba.

Ngodzi-Matowe: Celebrating Lasting Impact

Fatuma made it to the University of Malawi, College of Medicine. She will be graduating as a Pharmacist soon. Nolisha, at 13 years is now in standard 6. She doesn't have to walk long distances in fetch of clean water. There's a water point just a stone throw away. Ishmael has big dreams. For now, he's happy he can make money for a decent livelihood through bricklaying.

Adamson Mphande is elated that now, Pamoto or community kitchens have been closed down. Children are healthy and no new cases of malnutrition have been reported.

There's more to be told, and to be celebrated. After 15 years of operations in Ngodzi-Matowe

Area program, World Vision Malawi officially handed over all development projects to the communities and the Government of the Republic of Malawi.

During the cycle of the AP, WVM together with the communities of Traditional Authority Kambalame and Senior Chief Kachindamoto applied a decentralised approach during project activities implementation. This is to say, communities were taught and empowered to own the development projects right from the planning, execution, monitoring and reporting. In some instances such as those to do with construction, the people of Ngodzi Matowe contributed valuable resources in the form of man power, bricks and sand.



Fatuma is an intern pharmacist at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital.
Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

15 Years
2003-2018

2 Districts
Salima | Dedza

US\$11.1m
Funds Invested over 15 year period.

36,542
Number of people given access to potable water.

28,497
Number of children supported with various education interventions.

3,508
Number of children registered under the Child Sponsorship Program.



Young people have acquired various skills. Photo: World Vision, Wezzie Nungu

Communities were taught and empowered to own the development projects right from the planning, execution, monitoring and reporting.

In a brief overview, the life cycle of the AP was split in three phases. The first phase (2003 – 2008) was not only characterised by project assessment and designing, but also sensitisation – helping people to recognise the problems and define how they can find solutions to the challenges.

The second phase (2009 – 2013) required the stakeholders to focus on the execution of life changing interventions across such sectors as health and nutrition, food security, education, child protection and water hygiene and sanitation.

Finally, phase three (2014 -2018) was the transition season; where WVM worked on capacity building of the community partners to sustain the development projects that had been implemented over the first two phases.

To celebrate the impact built in the Ngodzi Matowe AP over the 15 year period, WVM held a celebratory event in September 2018. During this event Hazel Nyathi, the National Director of WVM applauded the partners that were involved in the work carried out.

“Over this period, Ngodzi-Matowe AP has registered great improvements in several areas: improved access to quality education through the construction of more school blocks and teachers houses; provision of teaching and learning materials and capacity building of school management structures, parents and children themselves; improved access to safe water; improved sanitation and hygiene through the drilling of boreholes in communities and community capacity building; improved food and nutrition security through various interventions such as livestock and crop production and the introduction of savings groups; reduction in Malaria, HIV and AIDS, construction of Health facilities including HTC Centres; provision of Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLITNs) and a number of behaviour change interventions to mention but a few.” Nyathi noted.

For learning purposes and continuous improvement, the District Programme Manager for Salima, Thokozani Chibwana pointed out that “an analysis of the AP can generate a number of

lessons if thought of and applied in the design and implementation of other APs; for instance, local level advocacy efforts should be integrated in programming from the start in order to realise the maximum impact on child well-being.”

Ngodzi Matowe Area Program covered two districts, Salima and Dedza under the local leadership of Traditional Authority Kambalame and senior Chief Kachindamoto respectively. US\$11,173,345 (MK8.4 billion) was invested over the 15 year period. 28,497 children were supported with various education interventions such as school bursaries, infrastructure and school materials; 3,508 children were registered under the Child Sponsorship program and people from 10,429 households were given access to potable water.

Ngodzi Matowe AP’s interventions were made possible with help from the people of Australia, via World Vision Australia. ■

World Vision Donates Medical Supplies



WVM and KCH staff pose with part of the donated items.
Photo: World Vision, Wezzie Nungu

Apart from KCH, other donations have been made to

**Chikwawa
Ntchisi
Balaka
Mchinji
& Kasungu
District Hospitals.**

In an effort to promote the health and nutrition of mothers and children in Malawi, World Vision Malawi (WVM) has donated medical supplies worth MK12,000,000 (\$16,000) to Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH) in Lilongwe.

Presiding over the ceremony at KCH, Edwina Hanjahanja, WVM's Associate Director for Program Effectiveness and Quality Assurance called for the need for holistic interventions to improve child health.

"As much as we work in specific communities that we call Area Programmes (APs), we realise that some of our children in the APs are referred to KCH when they fall sick."

Hanjahanja also urged the leadership of KCH to ensure the supplies are appropriately allocated for easy accountability to donors and partners.

Speaking during the donation, Director for KCH, Doctor Jonathan Ngoma, expressed gratitude towards WVM for the timely assistance.

"KCH is a big referral hospital, and the demands of quality health care services always outweigh the supply. The budget that is allocated to KCH is not enough to cater for all needs, therefore these items given today will ease the burden," expressed Ngoma.

Some of the supplies included were wheelchairs, oxygen masks,

orthopaedic shoes, surgical gloves, dental equipment, sample collection kits, and tricycles among others.

The donation has been made courtesy of World Vision USA and totalling MK89,000,000 (\$123,000).

Apart from KCH, other donations have been made to Chikwawa, Ntchisi, Balaka, Mchinji and Kasungu District Hospitals ■

World Vision Waves Goodbye to Ching'anda and Midzemba Programmes

After decades of implementing development interventions, World Vision has finally transitioned from Ching'anda and Midzemba Area Programmes (AP) in Mangochi and Neno districts, respectively. The closure ceremonies were separately held in the Aps where national and district government officials came to bid farewell and symbolically receive interventions implemented by World Vision.

A total of 28,500 and 21,000 children have benefited from World Vision's interventions in Midzemba and Ching'anda respectively.

Speaking at Ntondo Primary School in Ching'anda after touring pavilions that were set to showcase what the community had achieved in working with World Vision, Minister of Civic Education and Community Development, Grace Chiumya applauded the organization for its willingness to work in distant places like Ching'anda.

The Minister said that coming to Ching'anda, a community that is 179 kilometres away from Mangochi boma, was proof of the organisation's commitment to Malawian children and people.

"On behalf of the Malawi Government, I can't thank you enough for the work you have done in this community. The knowledge invested in the people, the under-five clinics, irrigation schemes and classrooms you have given will benefit these people for years to come", she said.

In a 24 year period in Ching'anda, a Muslim dominated community, World Vision has constructed a health centre, 72 classrooms; drilled 112 new boreholes and maintained 40;



Fatuma is an intern pharmacist at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital.

Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

constructed 6 irrigation schemes and provided trainings in areas around health, food security and education.

In her remarks, World Vision Malawi National Director, Hazel Nyathi thanked the people of Ching'anda for welcoming World Vision and doing their bit to develop their community.

"All that we've seen; the clean water, improvements in education and everything, wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for your commitment as a community to do better and change. As an organization we might have come with the money, but you did the actual work and that is why I am optimistic these investments will stay beyond time", she said.

The National Director further heaped praise on the people of United States

of America for their trust of World Vision manifested in their giving over a 24 year period.

Nyathi further thanked all World Vision Staff members who worked in Ching'anda from day one, calling it a sacrifice.

"World Vision was a true partner", recalled Mary Khembo, Member of Parliament for Neno. "I will never forget how they always came first whenever a disaster befell not just their impact area but the district, the training they have made in all sectors", added Khembo who urged government to capitalize on the technology they leave behind. ■

Divorced Mother pulls herself out of poverty

Of the many particular qualities in her, determination to succeed using what she has is the most outstanding in 33 year old Esnart.

Her husband divorced her 5 years ago, leaving her with three children and five chickens but Esnart was forced to sell the chickens so that her children could eat. The going was tough.

“We were all hungry and my children were often missing classes due to hunger and other needs,” she recalled. “I would collect fire wood and sell just to earn a living and it was never enough to feed all the children and keep myself healthy”, said Esnart.

As the situation persisted, it was apparent, the biggest loser was her last born daughter Bridget.

“On an empty stomach and tired with all the day’s chores, I would not breastfeed her enough, let alone buy her supplementary food to stay healthy”, said Esnart, before revealing that her daughter was malnourished.

With an El Nino induced dry spell that came in 2015, Esnart lost everything she had planted on her 0.85 acre. She had planted maize and soy beans on her farm but they all got dried up by the sun.

Things remained the same until Esnart forced her way to join 50 families that were benefiting from Chinama irrigation scheme, introduced by World Vision in Malawi right in her Kamwendo community.

While this was World Vision’s way of averting the food crisis that often hits the community, Esnart has used proceeds from the communal irrigation scheme to cultivate her land, feed her family, acquires assets, send her children to school, in the process, rising out of poverty.



Esnart carrying some green maize for her family.

Since she joined Chinama irrigation group in 2015, Esnart was quickly drafted into the Savings Group that runs parallel with the farming operations. While she had no immediate capital to contribute, Esnart sold part of her labour to the group and in turn got shares.

A few members who had received training from World Vision oriented her on how operations are run in a Savings Group.

“By the end of 2015, I had saved 45,000 kwacha (US\$62.5) and from our communal farming with the irrigation group, I got 50,000 kwacha (US\$69)”, said Esnart who added that this was the first time in her life to handle such an amount of money.

With the money, Esnart thought of kick starting one of her long term dreams- to build an iron roofed house for her family.

She hired some people who molded and burnt bricks for her house. Then she rested and invested the remainder of the money in farm inputs for her garden and a tomato business.

“I began buying tomatoes from our communal irrigation scheme and sold in Limbe, Blantyre”, says Esnart, beaming and shining with hope as she cut a few stocks of maize from the garden for sale. Today is her turn to work on the garden.

The year 2016 came with her main breakthrough. She managed to rake

60,000 kwacha from the irrigation scheme. The whole group had made about 3 million kwacha from their sales of that complete year.

Esnart purchased iron sheets for her would be house whose construction had already started.

"I was always there to see the house being built. I provided the bricks by myself and went collecting the water myself too", she said, her hands accompanying every word she said.

Today, Esnart has completed construction of her three bedroomed house, fully roofed with iron sheets. Beside it, she has just started constructing her kitchen so she can cook in a safe place. She also bought a bicycle which helps her in her daily errands in the community.

Her son Yamikani, 15, and his two sisters are all in school and the grades are encouraging.

In the coming year, Esnart intends to procure some goats as a store of value for the family in times of disasters.

"I didn't dream of being in my own house, roofed like this and see my children wake up, eat and go to school", said Esnart, crestfallen, before a shout of her last born daughter coming from playing waked her up.

"But World Vision has helped this dream come true. And my community has equally been supportive", added Esnart who said that she is now making savings for her son Yamikani who will soon be going to Secondary School ■

Esnart has completed construction of her three bedroomed house, fully roofed with iron sheets.

“By the end of 2015, I had saved 45,000 kwacha (US\$62.5) and from our communal farming with the irrigation group, I got 50,000 kwacha (US\$69)”



Life for Esnart and her children is getting better. Photo: World Vision, Charles Kabena

The beauty in Kanamwali's new face



A Jump of happiness. Children at Kanamwali School

Just two years ago, a visit to Kanamwali Primary School in Tchesa Community in Dedza would leave you with two things; shock and sympathy.

On the old Kanamwali hill, a grass shelter for standard one and two stood facing the flat plains of the village. While they may have been grass thatched shelters, to Lajabu these were their classrooms. These were symbols of a community, so determined to give its children a great start in life.

When it opened its doors in 2011, the schools had 314 learners. For the community, it was a new dawn. Today, Kanamwali has 580 learners from 13 villages that surround it.

"I started my standard one here", Lajabu, 12, says as he points at a stone a few meters from where he stood. "That was the teacher's chair when I was in Standard three. For Lajabu and all other learners of his age, this was the only school they had ever known.

"It was difficult to learn", went on Lajabu. Each time it started to rain, classes would be called off" said Lajabu before adding that every student would just start off running towards their homes.

429,730

In Fiscal year 2017 alone, World Vision's education and literacy programmes reached 429,730 children in primary schools and Early Childhood Development centres around Malawi.

On a floor that had no cement at all, every day, they returned home with dirty uniforms. For an Agri-based economy that could not even give families enough food to eat, no child could afford two uniforms to be switching each and every day.

"When it was windy we did not attend classes as well", says Esther,

aged 11 now in Standard five at Kanamwali. Just like Lajabu, she started her education here.

A few years ago, World Vision Staff members visited Kanamwali upon hearing that there was a new school in the village. He says after discussions held between the school management committee and World Vision officials, two school blocks of two classrooms each have been constructed, thereby enabling four classes to have proper rooms for learning.

In addition to the classrooms, the organization has also built one teacher's house that is being occupied by the head teacher, Mr Abdul Juma.

Lajabu, one of the pioneer learners at the school is happy with the spacious and beautiful classrooms that have made his learning easy. "We don't have problems such as our clothes getting dirty due to dust," he said before disappearing in the direction of other pupils who were playing football.

What started as junior Primary School is now edging towards becoming a full primary school. With classes now going up to Standard Seven, one more short of being a full primary school, pressure for space still exists.

"We have three other classes learning on the verandas of the two school blocks instead of staying under the tree where rains affect them", says Teacher Abdul.

He is however excited that parents around the school are working very hard to put up another school block if any partner comes along.

"The community has already molded bricks and gathered sand to ensure that if any help comes, they should be able to build additional classes as soon as possible", added Abdul.

In Fiscal year 2017 alone, World Vision's education and literacy programmes reached 429,730 children in primary schools and Early Childhood Development centres around Malawi ■

997 fishes children from the lake to go to school



In Malawi, 997 is a toll free line for the Police force! They come to communities to hunt for law breakers.

In Nkhatabay however, 997 has a new meaning.

Olipa and her friends know that the lake is a no go zone during school hours or they will have to answer to the community task force called 997.

Olipa lives in one of the lakeshore villages in Sanga Area Program, Traditional Authority Mankhambira in Nkhatabay District. Being a lakeshore village, a lot of activities take place during the day like fish vending, rice farming and traditional dances. Due to its richness in activities children in many cases drop out of school, to participate in such activities. For others it is not their choice. Their parents force them to go to the lake to participate in different activities.

A survey done in 2010 indicated that school dropout rate in Nkhatabay district was at 4.7% and pass rate for standard 8 in 2015 was at 37%. Fishing and farming were some of the indicators that fueled this dropout. World Vision through Sanga Area

program noted the challenge that is there in the area and decided to act. Mankhambira Sambizga Mwana project, a local level advocacy project funded by Tilitonse Fund was established in the area.

The objective was to ensure education governance in Nkhatabay is more inclusive, accountable and responsive

“Since we started 997, there is a drop in the number of children doing various activities like fishing during school hours. We are not going to stop what we are doing since we have been encouraged with the outcome”

to citizens by 2017. The project uses an advocacy approach called Citizen Voice and Action (CVA). CVA is based on the view that “Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country” (Article 21, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

One of the achievements CVA has done in the area is making sure that

children are no longer absent from school because of fishing and farming.

“We trained Village Development committees (VDC) and Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) in empowering and promoting education, but that alone wasn't working. We later thought of involving the youth and recruited them to be CVA

monitors. Through CVA these youths decided to form this group 997 which works as mobile community police task force to chase children from the lake to go to school,” says Arthur Mpumulo, Mankhambira Sambizga Mwana project Coordinator.

The group which has a motto “Fanya Fuji Uwone” (be stubborn and you will

see) started at group village head level but now it has expanded to all areas in Traditional Authority Mankhambira. Mzimoya Nyamwera is the Chairman for the grouping and explains more about the group.

“Since we started 997, there is a drop in the number of children doing various activities like fishing during school hours. We are not going to stop what we are doing since we have been encouraged with the outcome,” says Nyamwera.

In addition he says if a child is caught fishing during school hours, the parents are summoned to pay a fine.

70 year old Lexa says now children are going to school every day. The lake and farms are no longer a priority and parents have now understood the importance of education.

“My grandchildren are now doing better in school because they are attending classes every day. I am happy



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with this initiative. There are people in this village who didn't go to school but are making sure all children are going to school,” says Lexa, a community member.

Olipa wants to be a doctor when she grows up. And now her dream is set on the right track as she is attending school every day and her performance

has also improved.

Through CVA initiatives now the pass rate is at 81.6% in 2018 and 645 primary school going children have gone back to school and 386 have also gone back to secondary schools. 112 children with disabilities have also enrolled in different schools ■

Wheel Chair opens up dreams in Blessings mother

For a child affected by cerebral palsy, who has no control over his actions, the smile at the corner of his mouth was notably real. For Doctor Robster Nyirenda, Principal Prosthetic and head of the Orthotics department at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH) in Blantyre, southern Malawi, it was the smiles of seven year old Blessings and her mother that made a great day and week for him. He presented a wheel chair to the young boy donated by World Vision through Motivation Africa.

The organisation received 340 Wheel Chairs from World Vision Australia out of which 40 percent are fitted and given to children within the organisation's catchment areas.

The young boy, staying with his mother in Malawi's most popular suburb of Ndirande in Blantyre was born with



An Orthopaedic fitting Blessings with support material

a mental disorder which doctors described as cerebral palsy. This has prevented his limbs from functioning properly and hence rendered his legs less useful. He has to use a wheel chair for his mobility needs.

His Mother, Loveness explains that Blessings had a wheel chair given to him by a well wisher a couple of years ago. With time, Blessings had grown older and could not fit in it anymore. This had forced the busy young mother to resort to other measures of ensuring that her son moves from place to place, especially go to school.

His mother, father, cousins or friends have had to suspend whatever they were doing momentarily to give him support by carrying him on their backs; something the young mother says has not been easy considering that she is a business woman at one of the local markets in the suburb where she sales fresh vegetables.

"We could not move him around in the old wheelchair as he usually complained of pains and

I knew that he did not feel very comfortable in it," said Loveness who wants to see her son become a lawyer in the future. Worse still, she could not afford to buy him a new wheelchair, with doctors at the hospital saying that a subsidised one costs nearly seventy five thousand Malawi Kwacha (a little over US\$400).

But as luck may have it, Loveness took her son to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital for medical attention in the month of July. It was that same day that the hospital, having seen Blessings, recommended that he gets a wheelchair and sent him to the Orthotics department for support.

"We gladly received Blessings and his mother and realised that his situation needed a wheelchair that would fit him properly," said Doctor Nyirenda.

With over 40 wheelchairs in their department donated by World Vision, they quickly made thorough checks on Blessings and made decisions to modify one of the bikes to ensure that he fits in well and can move properly.

With over 40 wheelchairs in their department donated by World Vision, they quickly made thorough checks on Blessings and made decisions to modify one of the bikes to ensure that he fits in well and can move properly.

They also produced orthopaedic shoes for him and assured Loveness that they would be paying her frequent visits to see how the wheelchair is being used and help with little maintenances where they can manage.

Taking a look at Blessings comfortably seated on his new wheelchair, Doctor Nyirenda went on to say that as a department, they would have loved to plant such smiles in as many children as possible through the provision of

such wheelchairs. Sadly, the hospital is under-resourced.

"We produce our own wheel chairs to ensure that we service our clients very well," He said. "But once resources run out, what do we do? We are a government hospital and it's difficult to get hold of resources," complained Nyirenda as he thanked World Vision for mobilising the resources. "You can see the mother and child are happy and even his friends home will also be happy that their friend can move around with them in his wheelchair," added the Doctor.

While World Vision had decided to bring the wheel chairs it had solicited to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Doctor Nyirenda bemoaned the behaviour of politicians and other organisations who just give such items to beneficiaries without consulting with hospitals that specialise in disabilities. This, he said, is not only disrespectful to the medical profession but also denies beneficiaries maximum support in the usage of the received help.

"Wheelchairs are a part of treatment!" He emphasised. "It is sad that some people just go into the community and give to whoever they

see to be physically challenged without our advice and in the end, they end up causing some more damage to the people," worried Nyirenda.

He said that apart from Blessings parents, he has been telling all others who have received such wheelchairs to properly take care of them as they are not a cheap asset.

"These wheelchairs are a result of World Vision's good partnership with their supporters who have had to give out their resources into producing them, they are not free things" He said. "As such, all beneficiaries should bear in mind that every time they take good care of them, they are sending an appreciation to the donors" ■



Lifetime Milestones: Access to Clean Water

Water is life so goes the saying, and the availability of it in its purest form has made life much easier for people in Nanthowo village.

Nanthowo, which is in Traditional Authority Chitekwere has 38 households. And as long as everyone can remember, there has never been clean water drawn from a pump. In dire need, people within the community were forced to use water from unsafe sources like open wells and rivers. But all that has changed thanks to World Vision Malawi.

“Life is much easier now. We can save time too; I have more time for farming and tending to my family, especially my children,” says Lusiya Chambala, 31 and a mother to 5 children. Two of her children are Registered with World Vision, and through the sponsorship funds the children receive, the community has been able to benefit immensely with new sources of clean water.

Before the installation of water sources in Nanthowo, women would spend half the day going the longer distance to draw water, and consequently girls would miss out on school. After which, they would be required to tend to other domestic tasks in their homes. Water borne

diseases such as diarrhea among both adults and children were a frequent occurrence.

“Sometimes I couldn’t even cook for my family because there was no clean water; we couldn’t bath or complete household chores. Worse still, we would sustain injuries trying to escape from wild animals as we searched for water,” explains Chambala.

In a bid to address this need, people from Nanthowo village presented their water problem to the Area Development Committee (ADC). The Committee then presented the challenge to WVM through the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme. WVM then came forth and drilled a borehole right in the village.

To enhance community participation in local development projects, WVM partnered with the community in bringing this dream to life. Lusiya says: “We were grateful to be involved in this project, we contributed sand, bricks, quarry and man power towards the construction of the borehole. And now, every household benefiting from this is required to pay MK100 monthly which goes towards maintenance and village loans that they return with a 20% interest.” ■

Water is life 



The joy of clean water Photo: World Vision, Wezzie Banda

Chipsye Village

Just miles away lies Chipsye village, right in the vicinity of Nanthowo, Nkhoma. With 87 households, double that of Nanthowo, Chipsye's water crisis was no different.

Similarly, WVM drilled a total of five boreholes in the AP with support from United States Support Office. Over 1,250 community members continue to benefit from the clean water being drawn from these boreholes, of this, 153 are registered children through the Child Sponsorship program.

"We plan to build a brick fence around the water points, and also to have a backyard garden which will be used to supplement the contributions collected from community members," narrated Charity Gift, a 22 year old young woman who is also a water point member.

To ensure that community members sustainably keep the water points in shape, their capacity was built so that they don't rely on aid. Some of the methods used is to assign a water point committee which oversees maintenance, and to loan out the collected contributions to the community members at an interest rate.

"That is the face of sustainability. Across our WVM WASH interventions, we seek to empower the community to own the projects, so that when we leave, we are assured they will be able to manage and sustain them," says Liddah Manyozo, WASH Coordinator for World Vision ■

“Across our WVM WASH interventions, we seek to empower the community to own the projects, so that when we leave, we are assured they will be able to manage and sustain them”

How Mariana Rose Above Shame





Stigma and shame are often attached to young girls who get pregnant. Although Mariana from Fatchi village in Nsanje district has dealt with the social stigma, she has defied all odds and came out a victor. Today, she is a teacher of adult literacy in her community, hired by the government.

At the age of 13, Mariana got pregnant and her father insisted that she marry the man who impregnated her; thus forcing her into early marriage. Although she complied with her father's wishes she was severely unhappy at her husband's home.

After much deliberation and argument, her father allowed Mariana and her baby to return back to her family home eight months after her baby was born. When she returned to her village, she became private and unsociable as she blamed herself for being a mother at such an early age. As a result, Mariana isolated herself withdrew from her friends and community.

Tipione Youth Ready Club did not allow societal humiliations to dictate the way they saw Mariana, instead they reached out to her in order to help her finish her education. The club is one of the 47 clubs across Malawi in 14 districts in the Action for Adolescents and Youth (A4AY) project supported by UNICEF and World Vision Malawi.

After training from Youth Ready Module 1 "Who am I" and Module 2

"Words and Money", members from Tipione club approached Mariana and explained that they could help her return to school if she wanted to be part of the club.

"It wasn't an easy decision for me to make since the club was well known in my community for drama with messages on child marriages which made me feel embarrassed," confesses Mariana. She told the members of the club she could accept only if they allowed her to perform drama with such messages away from her community.

Led by Chikondi Matchithi, as the chairperson of the club, her peers accepted her into the club. She immediately joined the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) group in the club which allowed her to start selling rice at the market. In addition, she went back to night school as her mother was able to take care of her baby in her absence. Today Mariana is a proud owner of four goats and some chickens from the VSL initiative which also helped her pay school fees for herself and her brother Isaac since her parents could not afford.

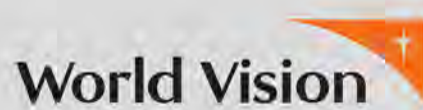
Mariana is now 19 and has not only succeeded by passing her 2017 MSCE exams, she has also got a job as an adult literacy facilitator in her community through the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Elderly after going through "Mock Interviews" found in Youth Ready Module 3 "Ready for Entrepreneurship".

Because of the compassion of Tipione Ready Club members and the hard work she put into her school, gender based violence will not impact Mariana's 6 year old daughter in the way that it affected her.

"I am grateful to my friends in this club for their generosity and I intend to buy a goat with the first salary from my job as adult literacy facilitator as a token of my appreciation to the group," she says smiling shyly.

She hopes that upon selling the goat, money raised can be given to another vulnerable youth failing to pay fees in the community. "This may definitely rewrite someone's unfortunate destiny just like it changed mine" ■

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