

A WORLD VISION MAGAZINE

World Vision 

CHANGING LIVES

ISSUE 6

JULY, 2021



Contents

3		From the Officer in Charge
4		It's coming home
5		Summary of achievements
6		Malawi Female MPs for Ending Child Marriage
7		Mindset change earns praise
8		Zero Mosquitos equals Zero Malaria
10		Banking Hope in Village Banks
11		Felia Rejoices in Second Chance
15		Meet our new Director



From the Officer in Charge



World Vision Malawi to seek out children in marginalised contexts, bringing to them life in all its fullness through many healthy and productive partnerships we have developed with the Malawi government and other stakeholders.

At the peak of the pandemic in Malawi, in December and January, as an organization, we kept our faith in God and did the best we could to ensure all communities we work in were supported in raising awareness of the pandemic. Most importantly, our advocacy partnerships ensured that we supported the Malawi government with advice on safe reopening of schools to enable children of the country attain life changing education.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, World Vision's work in Malawi has continued to grow. In the second quarter of 2021, with your support, we were able to reach over 2.2 million children through our programs, advocacy and relief work. The growth, in part, was due to our sustained partnership with the Global Fund and the Malawi government in addressing the triple burden of Malaria, HIV and TB.

In the midst of all the pain and uncertainty, I am glad to report that we safeguarded over two million people from Malaria, including 148,000 children and 40,000 pregnant and lactating mothers.

Similarly, during the same period, and thanks to the promising harvest, we saw steady involvement of families in Savings Groups, which demonstrates community's trust in the model as a fall-back option in times of need.

As we continue, World Vision is committed to strategic change in our quest to be a more effective partner for the child and community in need. As we rework our strategy for the post 2021 year coming, we expect to steward our resources more efficiently, with greater benefits for children.

As we celebrate these gains, we know this would be impossible, without committed and capable partners, including the national and local Government of Malawi, United Nations agencies, the Global Fund as well as local and international development partners. Transforming Malawi for the well-being of vulnerable children compels us to work together.

Finally, we are thankful to our faithful supporters, funding partners and sponsors. The resources you entrust to World Vision enable us to do what we do. Without you, life in all its fullness for every child would remain a dream.

It's coming home



Lumero Primary School in Karonga and Devine Academy in Blantyre are happy schools.

Their candidates brought them medals from this year's Spelling Bee competition following the successful completion of an exciting but challenging competition that was held at Crossroads hotel in Lilongwe.

Misheck Mwangofi, 16, from Lumero Primary School in World Vision's Lupembe-Mlare impact area Area carried home to Karonga the rural category trophy while Kagaso, 9, from Devine Academy carried the urban schools trophy to Blantyre.

Apart from the trophies, the pupils walked away with 75-thousand-kwacha cash prize each, 2 school bags and some writing materials.

Misheck says he never expected to carry the trophy home.

"Since the first day I participated in this competition, it has not been easy. The competition requires a lot of reading and reciting. Winning this award is just a miracle since a lot of students prepared well," says Misheck.

For Vione Kagaso, who was smiling throughout the final, though the competition was very tough, she says she was prepared for the ultimate prize.

"My parents have always been encouraging me to study hard so that I perform better in class and during such competitions as these, so it was my wish to win this competition," says Vione who never missed a question during the competition. In this year's edition 1,500 pupils from across the country participated in the competition but only 62 made it to the national finals showdown.

Despite not getting an award, Gladys Gideon, a standard 6 student at Chisimbwi Primary School in Bwanje, Ntcheu, impressed Mirriam Matinga, Vice President for Independent Schools Association of Malawi and the owner of Golden Gate Memorial School.

Mirriam has adopted Gladys and promised to support her education needs till university graduation. Mirriam says she was amazed by the child's performance. World Vision's interim Director of Programmes, Charles Chimombo says the competition is important in promoting literacy skills among children.

"A recent survey done by World Vision has revealed that only 16 percent of grade three learners are able to read and write with comprehension, but the target is 50 percent.

This shows that there is a huge gap to fill and we must all come together", said

Chimombo who pointed out that the Spelling Bee Competition is just one of the initiatives World Vision is implementing in Malawi to help learners develop.

Annually, World Vision invests 4 billion kwacha in the education sector through trainings for care givers and teachers, construction of learning structures as well as provision of reading materials across 33 communities in Malawi's 23 of the 28 districts.

Deputy minister of education, Madalitso Kumbauwa Wilima, who graced the occasion hailed World Vision, Maheu Products and Zodiak Broadcasting Station for coming together to support the competition that is aimed at promoting education in Malawi.

"Spelling bee helps children to read and spell words with comprehension, it also boosts their confidence since they are trained to speak in public podiums and it also helps them to handle pressure as there's a lot of expectations from them before and during the competition," says Madalitso.

The competition will return next year

Summary of Achievements



2 million

people safeguarded from Malaria through IRS in Mangochi, Balaka and Nkhatabay following the spraying of 513,000 houses.

51,042

mothers reached with nutrition counselling messages

8,455

adolescents reached with HIV/AIDS messages through teen clubs

43,120

children participated in growth monitoring

31,247

farming families participating in Savings Groups

32,548

people gained access to clean water through 97 new boreholes

42,313

people attained access to latrines

47,802

farming families trained in post-harvest handling of their crops

29,695

families linked to microfinance

124,101

Learners participating in literacy activities

Malawi Female MPs for Ending Child Marriage



Female members of parliament posing after the event at Chigodi primary School. CHARLES KABENA/WORLD VISION

Female members of the Malawi Parliament have rallied behind World Vision's efforts to end Child Marriage by leading motivation talks in the organisation's Chigodi impact area.

In an event held at Chigodi Community Day Secondary School in Lilongwe, parliamentarians, including the speaker, Catherine Gotani Hara, challenged girls to rise above their fears while also pushing teachers to do their best to give all children a chance.

Attired in different school uniforms, reminiscent of their schooling days, the 28 female MPs told children stories of how they overcame.

In their coordinated voice, Female Members of Parliament (MPs) pleaded with all children, especially girls, to remain firm on education and disregard cultural practices that encourage early marriage.

Honourable Ron Chijere Chirwa, Parliamentarian for Zomba-Chingale where World Vision implemented different interventions before, challenged learners to take advantage of the support they receive from different players including World Vision to further their education. Chijere further urged the learners to dream beyond their villages.

"Wherever you are, the world is big. I come from a typical village in Chingale, Zomba, very far from the city. But because of education, I acquired the skills and confidence to lead and I am a parliamentarian, a job that is taking me to places I never thought would be possible. So dream", she said.

Gotani Hara, who is Malawi's first ever female Speaker of Parliament said her house valued the role modelling opportunity knowing fully well the challenges that children in remote places face when making decisions, most of which decide their future.

"Lack of parents, being born from poverty-stricken families or lack of school fees should not be an excuse to fail to stay in school", said Hara who further challenged teachers to dig deep in their capacity to support children and for parents to corroborate with education authorities.

"I want to encourage teachers to be dedicated by taking your service seriously. We know the challenges you pass through. And that is why in parliament, most of us speak about your plight. But before we get things better, let us serve as best as we can so these children can grow into responsible citizens", said Speaker Hara.

World Vision's Advocacy and Child Protection Manager, Lizzie Lombe, hailed the female MPs for the career guidance and motivation talks, which she believes have changed a lot of minds.

"Worse still, covid-19 now threatens the future of the Malawian child. About 13 000 cases of child marriages and over 40 000 cases of teen pregnancies across Malawi have been recorded since Covid-19 hit the country. So this visit is very important in encouraging children to stay focused on education", noted Lombe.

Currently, World Vision Malawi is running the "It Takes Malawi to End Child Marriage" campaign in an effort to reduce child marriages by 20%.





Rgt Hon. Chilima (left), being briefed by World Vision's Director of Programmes, Charles Chimombo

Mindset change earns praise

Malawi's State Vice-President, Hon. Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima has hailed World Vision for championing the inculcation of mindset change for economic development.

"What we have seen at Nthondo is mindset change in action and not just in words. We need this mindset concept adopted in all the areas of the country if we are to achieve meaningful development", he remarked at Senior Chief Nthondo in Ntchisi District.

Hon. Dr. Chilima was, on Thursday July 8, the Guest of Honour at an event organised by World Vision, and appreciated how the organisation is practically applying mindset change to bolster people's economic livelihoods.

World Vision's Officer-in-Charge Charles Chimombo expressed gratitude to the Malawi Government and all its service partners for the support and guidance rendered to support the organisation's work in uplifting the welfare and well-being of children in Malawi.

He added that one way of achieving real development is for the country and its people to adopt mindset change. "We believe that everyone else has got the potential to change their own status based on the resources and skills that

God bestows upon them... to change their mindset, believe in themselves and be able to improve food security and their livelihoods", he said.

Chimombo further indicated there is potential for development when he cited positive gains evidenced from a pilot programme on mindset change that World Vision conducted for the last four years in Lilongwe's Nkhoma-Chilenje, Nkhatabay's Chikwina-Mpamba and Ntchisi's Nthondo.

He said, "It is a clear demonstration that a consistent and systematic implementation of an empowered worldview approach that is spiritually grounded, culturally literate, and defined by hope, can help break the underlying dependence mindset and a sense of powerlessness, and unlock the potential within communities in realising their own transformation."

Parliamentarian for Nthondo Area, Olipa Chimangeni – a former World Vision sponsored child – spoke highly of how mindset change is helping people in her area move away from the trappings of poverty into visionary people who see opportunity in every aspect.

Other dignitaries at the event included Senior Chief Nthondo, Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare Patricia Kaliati.

"We need this mindset concept adopted in all the areas of the country if we are to achieve meaningful development", Chilima.

Zero Mosquitos equals Zero Malaria



Since Jerodini (left) became Malaria free, her performances at school have improved. CHARLES KABENA/WORLD VISION

Loyce Samu, 38, from Group Village Headman Lulanga, Traditional Authority Lulanga in Mangochi, has bitter memories of malaria attacks on her children, which used to occur almost every month.

"In fact, I nearly lost my two children—Jerodini and Prince— due to malaria attacks", she recalls.

Loyce explains that it was around September to October 2019 when Prince (4) fell critically ill due to malaria. She rushed him to Lulanga Health Centre, a nearby paying mission facility, where the child was admitted for some days before being discharged.

The admission was expensive on the family, according to Loyce. But most importantly, the repeated battles against malaria denied Jerodini and Prince an opportunity for good health and almost derailed their education.

"It was a matter of going in and out of hospital due to the malaria. It really took more time to get him fully recovered because the malaria hit him hard. Due to the impact of the sickness, my son could no longer speak clearly as was the case before. But I am thankful because he got healed",

she says.

She adds, smiling: "I am happy to say that World Vision came in December (2019) and sprayed insecticides to reduce the spread of malaria and since that spray, all my children no longer suffer from malaria. You can see that Prince and Jerodini looking healthy!"

Jerodini (8) is now happy that she is not perpetually sick. She is able to continue with her studies in Standard 3 at Lulanga Primary School. Prince, on the other hand, has started nursery school.

"Malaria is a very dangerous disease because it can easily kill. In addition, when children were falling sick, I was failing to work in the garden and also to take care of other children and do other things, but now I am free", says Loyce, who is also a subsistence farmer.

Loyce further adds that just to see her children in school, free of malaria and chasing their dreams makes her feel a special kind of

freedom. "When they were always sick, they were home or in hospital and missed out on their chance to learn. But today, they are free and I

1, 950,000
people are
benefiting
from IRS
project

am also free", she says.

Hers is one of the hundreds of success stories of the Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) project implemented in the area, which falls under World Vision's Ching'anda



Jerodini, centre, enjoys helping her friends read. CHARLES KABENA/WORLD VISION.

Jerodini rejoices in Malaria freedom

Area Programme in Mangochi.

“The feedback has been overwhelming from communities”, notes Frank Magetsi, Technical Officer for the IRS Project.

“They speak highly of how our work has helped safeguard their children from Malaria and enabled them to enjoy their right to education and good health as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

Statistics from Lulunga Health Centre show that recorded cases of malaria reduced significantly soon after the spraying of the insecticides in people's homes.

According to Blessings Chisaka, a Medical Officer for Lulunga Health Centre, a facility owned by the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), the difference is evident in the figures which showed, for example, that while there were 116 malaria cases recorded in the

month of October 2020, there were only 68 cases in December 2020.

Chisaka thanked World Vision for the partnership and added that since the area experiences high cases of malaria between November and April each year, there is need to continue with the project so that more lives could be saved.

The project which runs to 2023 is being implemented in Mangochi, Balaka and Nkhata Bay (where it is funded by Global Fund) and in Nkhotakota (where it is funded by the United States Agency for International Development - USAID).

World Vision's work in fighting malaria has safeguarded nearly 2 million people from malaria in Malawi, including more than 201,900 children and 23,700 pregnant mothers.

The Global Fund supported Malaria project is benefiting Mangochi, Balaka and Nkhatabay.

Banking Hope in Village Bank

Banking hopes in village banks
 In 1999, Christina Limitedi's husband eloped to Nkhatabay with a relatively richer woman, leaving Christina with five children.

This preceded a 17-year long struggle for Christina and her children. Having two meals a day was a luxury, they were mostly eating once a day.

One by one, her four daughters 'escaped' to marriage.

Eventually, it was just her and her youngest child in the house. Later, one of the daughters brought her child to live with her grandmother.

The struggle to meet basic needs continued and the grandchild was hit by malnutrition.

The constant food shortage was in-part because Christina could not afford hybrid seeds and fertilizer. In addition, she had no farming land, and was relying on a rented small piece of land.

In 2016, Christina saw a ray of hope in Village Banks.

She is one of the founding members for Tidziwane Village Bank, a 25-member group operating in Nkhumba Village, Traditional Authority Njema in Mulanje district. This initiative started after World Vision Malawi (WVM) trained Promoters on how the community-based credit and savings associations operate.

Since its establishment, the group's total savings have been increasing exponentially. According to the group's Promoter, Cecilia Chikuni, from making K465,000 in 2018, the group made K1,300,000 in 2020 and projects to make savings in excess of K2,000,000 this year.

"This will come from the members agreed weekly contributions known and interest on loans given to the members,"



Christina - WORLD VISION/COLLINS

says Chikuni. Each member makes a contribution of no less than K500 a week, and pays an interest of 20% on loans borrowed from the group.

Chikuni adds that the group's ultimate goal is for every group member to achieve something tangible from the membership.

For 48-year-old Christina, she is already on the path to success and she did not cheat any stage to be where she is now.

"In 2016, I took a loan from the village bank and started a mandasi business. With the profits from the business, I bought bricks and roofing sheets," she explains.

She built a decent house, bought her own farming land and a solar power system, among other things.

"I intend to invest in a motorbike from my savings, after topping up with a loan

that we have collectively applied for at Vision Fund," says Christina.

Evidently, Village banks initiative is a welcome development whose beneficiaries are determined to reap fruits. According to Samson Semu, WVM Programs Manager for Mulanje, Thyolo and Phalombe, all WVM interventions are done after a baseline study to ensure that what is provided is what the people in that area need.

Village banks, have enhanced financial inclusiveness and access to loans by unbanked population and others who are banked but do not own the required collateral to qualify for a loan in commercial banks ■

Felia rejoices in second chance



Felia has another take at education. Mike Mataka

55,920

COVID-19 Cases registered

1,828

deaths registered

360,000

doses of COVID-19 vaccine received from Covax

159,229

People fully vaccinated

“**World Vision has oriented 300 faith leaders across Malawi to address myths surrounding the COVID-19 Vaccine**”

In 2019, Felia Laisi, a 17 year old brilliant form 4 student at Matope Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) in Neno, fell pregnant.

Before the setback, she always scooped first position in class.

“She outsmarted everyone in her class and we saw great potential in her,” says Robert Maoza, Headmaster at Matope CDSS.

When her teachers and parents discovered she was pregnant, Felia saw her world crushing right in front of her very own eyes.

Consequently, she was expelled from school.

Her dream of walking in the corridors of Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and becoming an Engineer were shattered, just like that.

That was not the end of her troubles. At home, her disappointed parents could not stand the ‘shame’ she brought on the family so they dropped her at the responsible boy’s home.

Life was not easy, the boy was solely dependent on his single mother.

On 20th April, 2020, Felia gave birth to a baby girl, Esther.

“When Esther was 7 months old, my father, who is also a member of Matope Pastor’s Fraternal, came and convinced me to go back to school,” explains Felia.

Matope Pastor’s Fraternal is a grouping comprised of 19 pastors supported by

World Vision as one way of addressing child protection challenges.

“WVM has been assisting us by imparting knowledge on how we can operate and so far we have rescued about 14 girls from child marriages,” explains Pastor Chrissie Manyenje, a member of the Pastor’s Fraternal.

Manyenje adds when they heard about Felia’s situation they encouraged her father to advise her about going back to school and when Felia’s father sought assistance from the Headmaster, he was equally supportive.

On 23rd January, 2021, Felia was back at school with full support of her parents, teachers and the pastors.

“My daughter is 14 months old now and my mother brings her to school during lunch breaks for me to breastfeed the baby,” says Felia.

She adds: “I’m happy and grateful that I have a second chance to finish my studies and possibly provide a better life for my daughter when I graduate”.

She explains that apart from walking long distance to school, everything is going smoothly and hopes to retain her position 1 spot as soon as possible.

Similarly, another beneficiary of the Pastor’s fraternal work, Eunice Maulana is happy to be back in school after the grouping intervened by offering advice to her and her parents.

To next page

Felia rejoices in second chance



"It was my decision to go into marriage, my parents were reluctant so I just sneaked out and moved in with my boyfriend when I was 18," she murmurs.

Eunice's case was slightly different, she was not pregnant. It was simply a decision she made with the boyfriend.

Before this, she struggled her way to get to form four. "I was selected to two secondary schools so I went to the other school before coming to Matope CDSS. I was a poor girl on self-boarding so I met a lot of temptations," says Eunice.

She adds: "Normally my parents could only afford to give me K6, 500 per month. I was sharing the house with 5 other girls, we were contributing K2, 500 each towards rentals which meant I had to survive on K4, 000 the entire month".

When the financial problems became too hard, Eunice went back home and enrolled at Matope CDSS. The situation at home prompted her to drop out of school and start cohabiting with her boyfriend until the Pastors

Fraternal intervened and brought her back to school.

A 2019 study by Civil Society Education Coalition revealed that poverty was chief among the causes for school dropouts in Malawi.

However, Headmaster Maoza recommends serious mind-set change intervention if the dream to educate vulnerable girls from the rural communities is to be accomplished.

"One of the root causes for drop outs is that some people value marriage more than education, for instance a student can fail to complete her studies because her parents have failed to raise K9, 000 school fees but once the same parents have decided to marry off the same daughter, family and community members will contribute goats, bags of rice and maize whose monetary value greatly surpasses the K9, 000 fees that they initially failed to support the student with," Maoza laments.

According to UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, just 2% of the poorest girls in low income countries currently complete upper secondary school ■

Meet our new Director



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Francis Dube as the next National Director for World Vision Malawi (WVM) effective 1 August 2021.

Francis has 26 years of experience in the humanitarian field. He served both the development and emergency response sectors of World Vision Zimbabwe for over a decade. Since 2007, Francis has served World Vision in various capacities which include Country Director for Eswatini (2016 - present), Interim Country Director for Joint Operations for Eswatini & Lesotho, Integrated Programs Director (Eswatini), Regional Project Management Unit Director (East Africa), Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor and Resilience Project Manager (Pan Africa) and Interim Disaster Management Capacity Advisor (Pan Africa).

Additionally, Francis has served on various Boards including: National Emergency Management (NEM) Task force on COVID 19 Response for Eswatini; Advisory Committee on Post COVID 19 Economic Recovery to Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Natural Resources; Advisory Committee on Post COVID-19 Recovery Plan to Minister of Agriculture; Chair of the National Child Protection Consortium Eswatini; Board member of Forward In Faith Ministries Bible College, Bulawayo; among others.

Francis is a holder of a Master's Degree in Business Administration, BSc Degree in Agriculture Management, and other certifications. He is married and blessed with two girls and a boy with whom they worship at Potters' Wheel Church.

Please join us in welcoming Francis as he and his family transition from Eswatini to Malawi.

Dr Lucy Kachapila
Advisory Council Chairperson

Mark Kelly
Regional Leader SAR

MALAWI NATIONAL SPELLING BE

PROMOTING LITERACY



World Vision

Wo

It takes Malawi
Our Good, Our World, Our Future.

It



Ministry of Education, Science
and Technology (MoEST)



Spe

M A L A W I N A T I O N A L S P E L L I N G B E E



M A L A W I N A T I O N A L S P E L L I N G B E E



World Vision Malawi
P.O. Box 692
Lilongwe.

www.wvi.org/malawi



@WorldVisionMalawi