

Changing Lives

Issue 8

MOVING FORWARD WITH RELIABLE NEWS

May, 2022



World Vision, Global Fund
Urges Young People to
Focus on Dreams-5



Chimwemwe Lives
a Joyful Moment- 10



Halima and Anifa
Thrive in School as
Malaria Falls- 12



Our word

World Vision's mission is about changing lives amongst the most vulnerable segments of our society.

This month I had an opportunity to visit several communities that partners with World Vision in a number of areas. In Nkhoma, Lilongwe, I was impressed with the people's shift in mindset. I was happy to meet mothers and fathers who are saving money and lending amongst themselves to improve their wellbeing.

In the end, some of these groups have been pooling their resources and buying fertilisers and mattresses to improve their agriculture as well as sleep on a better place. This is the goal of development, people seeking the next level of life, working hard and improving.

For me, and World Vision as a whole, it is this personal transformation of mindset, and the evidence of what a little investment can trigger in a community that motivates us to go further and do more.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, World Vision's work in Malawi has continued to grow. In the second quarter of 2022, with your support, we reached over 2.2 million children through our programs, advocacy and relief work.

In the midst of the pandemic, Malawi was hit by two cyclones that affected hundreds of thousands of lives. As an organization, we kept our faith in God and did our best to ensure all communities we work in were supported with food and other non food items to survive the brutal period. So far, nearly 250,000 people have benefited from our re-

lief efforts in various spheres of life and we will continue to explore other ways of supporting the rebuilding processes within the resource purse available.

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.

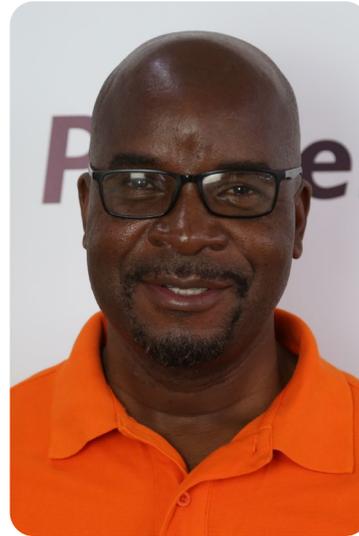
With a successful implementation of the Indoor Residual spraying programme, we safeguarded over 1.9 million people from Malaria, including 148,000 children and 45,000 pregnant and lactating mothers.

In our 2021-2025 strategy, we made a bold promise to impact lives of young people by imparting different life skills as well as keep them safe from HIV/AIDS and abuse.

In the past six months, our interventions have reached out to nearly 400,000 young people with Sexual and Reproductive Health Messages while another 3,100 have been trained in various life skills.

World Vision is committed to consistently positioning ourselves to self reflection and strategic change, where necessary, to become a more effective partner. As we continue seeking the voice of God and reaching more children, we will steward our resources more efficiently, with greater benefits for children.

We are grateful for the support from committed and capable partners, including the national and local Government of Malawi, United



Nations agencies, the Global Fund and other local and international development partner who are part of our quest to transform Malawi for the well-being of children.

World Vision continues to seek out children in marginalised contexts with a desire for them to enjoy life in all its fullness through many healthy and productive partnerships we have

developed with the Malawi government and other stakeholders.

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.

Francis Dube,
National Director.

Table of contents

Riak applauds Malawi interventions	4
Global Fund, World Vision Urges Young people to Focus on Dreams	6
World Vision, Partners Show up for Malawians hit by Floods	7
Mechanised Water System Tranforms Melita’s School	8
Chimwemwe lives her name	10
Halima and Anifa Thrive in School as Malaria Falls	12
World Vision Malawi launches Bible distribution exercise	14
Toiling their Futures away	15
Flood Survivors Hail Support	16
Lenato Scales New Heights	18
Recipe of Hope	20
Reviving shattered Dreams	21

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Changing Lives

Riak applauds transformational interventions in Malawi



Riak, in orange, was impressed with World Vision's work in Malawi.

“As World Vision, we are empowering families and communities to realise and understand that they have God-given skills, strengths and talents that they can utilize to sustain their livelihoods”

Senior Director of Operations for World Vision in Southern African Region Abi Riak says the empowered worldview model is powerful tool for people to realise their potential towards bringing change to their communities.

Riak said this recently during her official visit to Malawi to appreciate some of the transformational interventions by World Vision.

“I am really impressed that as World Vision, we are empowering families and communities to realise and understand that they have God-given skills, strengths and talents that they can utilize to sustain their livelihoods,” said Riak on the sidelines of a visit in Nkhoma Area

Programme in Lilongwe.

During her visit to Nkhoma AP on 25th March, 2022, Riak interacted with members of Chibothi Farm Based Organisation, a grouping engaged in Savings for Transformation (S4T) and agribusiness for their livelihood.

Prior to the 2021-2022 farming season, each of the 25 members of the group received two bags of fertilizer, one mattress, a five-kilogram packet of maize seed, ginger seed and rice from proceeds realized in 2021.

Riak applauds Malawi interventions

The self-reliance initiative impressed Riak. “The self-actualization of community members is so inspiring because it will enable them to sustainably support their families with little or no external support,” she said.

On Thursday, 31 March, 2022, Riak also visited Chatewa Savings Group in Dowa. This is an all-women group engaged in S4T through a Sanitation Business Model that promotes construction of durable and affordable improved latrines.

Riak commended the women for their commitment to earn a living for themselves while improving the sanitation of their communities towards promoting healthier lives.

“These women are coming together to build latrines for each other and for who pay them. They are making money for their savings and at the same time helping to reduce incidences of diarrhea among under-five children in their community.

As World Vision, we are exceptionally happy to be part of this development journey of transformation in Chatewa and other surrounding communities,” she said.



Women constructing a corbelled latrine in Dowa district.
WORLD VISION/McNEIL KALOWEKAMO

Riak added that a positive reflection of her visit to Malawi is that the groups have showed that they are not just for money, but for cementing community relationships towards different development initiatives.

Both Chibothi and Chatewa S4T Groups expressed gratitude to World Vision for picking them out to showcase their work and impact to the visitor.

“We are excited because the small things we are doing here are getting international recognition. This will encourage us to work extra hard in providing the best for our children,” said Grevasio Sudala, secretary for Chibothi FBO.

For Esther Kapolo, secretary for Chatewa, their group felt honoured to have Riak participate in the construction of an improved latrine.



We are happy with the change happening in our community- Martha.
WORLD VISION/McNEIL KALOWEKAMO

Youths Urged to Focus on **Dreams**



Nkulu posing with girls from Mulanje during her visit.
WORLD VISION/CHARLES KABENA

World Vision Malawi (WVM) and the Global Fund have reaffirmed their commitment towards helping young people, especially girls to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS and reach for their dreams.

Speaking to girls taking different leadership roles in the area of Traditional Authority Mabuka in Mulanje, Global Fund’s Technical Advisor for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) interventions, Hilary Nkulu, urged girls to utilise the knowledge they are acquiring through the programme.

Nkulu added that girls and all young people need to make informed choices on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and other critical areas that influence their aspirations. She further appealed to them to be each other’s keeper as they

walk towards their dreams.

Since the inception of the project, the number of young people attaining SRH services has increased by 10 per cent at the community’s health facility, Milonde Health Centre.

In addition, there has been a remarkable reduction on youths defaulting on Antiretroviral drugs, according to records from the health centre.

According to Peer Educator Regina Joseph, despite the milestones attained through the project in Mulanje, under the guidance of Girls Network Empowerment (GENET), there are issues which need to be addressed to succeed further.

She laments: “Mobility during peer to

peer counseling visits and school fees for those rescued from child-marriages, are some of the areas which need urgent support from stakeholders.”

Responding to Matabwa’s concern, Nkulu assured the girls that Global Fund and WVM are committed to provide the necessary support.

During the meeting which attracted leaders from various sectors including political, faith and the community, WVM’s Chief of Party for Global Fund grants, Biziwick Mwale commended the community and other stakeholders for their consolidated efforts in addressing bottlenecks towards girls’ education.

“We’ve heard that some girls are in school while others are doing businesses, it is now important for the community to look within itself, especially in relation to various opportunities coming from the government, including bursaries”, appealed Mwale.

WVM, a Principal Recipient of Global Fund Grants on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis and Malaria has been implementing different interventions that have built capacity of young people in various trades of life since 2017.

The Christian humanitarian organisation has also revitalized community-based structures that deal with violence against young women.

379, 859

Boys and Girls impacted in Mulanje, Mangochi, Thyolo & Lilongwe since 2021.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhP-n6CNMvHE>

154, 020

Girls received Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV prevention messages from June to December, 2021.

13, 659

Adults reached with messages and tools on how to prevent the spreading of HIV.

World Vision, Partners Show up for Malawians hit by Floods



World Vision Staff distributing relief items in Mulanje. WORLD VISION/COLLINS KHULANI

World Vision Malawi has geared up to support children and families affected by Tropical Cyclone Ana and Gombe in Southern Malawi. The organisation is giving out food and other non-food items to help people rebuild their livelihoods.

Speaking from Chikwawa, where the organisation is responding through a mix of cash, food and other non-food items, World Vision Malawi's response Manager, Sobhuza Sibande said they are giving out maize flour, Likuni Phala (Corn soy) and money, based on support received and the prevailing needs of the areas.

"So far, we have supported 9,000 households with food (194.92 Metric Tones). Each benefiting household has received a 20 kilogram bag of maize flour and soya pieces (relish). Additionally, each household with an under-five child has received 5 kilograms of Likuni Phala (Corn Soy Blend)", said Sibande.

In partnership with WFP, World Vision facilitated distribution of 107 MT of Corn Soy Blend (CSB) to 38,417 people living in displacement camps in Chikwawa District. Besides, the organisation distributed cash to 35,299 households in Chikwawa courtesy of the same partnership.

Each benefiting household went away with K18,000 in a once off distribution.

In January this year, Tropical Storm Ana hit 17 districts, causing flooding that displaced people, destroyed crops and claimed lives. Later in March, Tropical Storm Gombe took the same path, exacerbating the plight of the 870,000 people affected.

Close to 100,000 were displaced, with 33 deaths, 18 missing and 158 injuries, according to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). About 221,127 farming households lost their crops (maize, groundnuts, soybeans, tobacco, sesame, rice, cotton) through either complete wash away or submersion.

Currently, World Vision is working hand in hand with different peer organisations, UN agencies and faith communities to partner affected communities in their rebuilding processes.

"World Vision is a Christian organisation which started working in Malawi from way back. It has proper structures across the country and apart from that it is a trusted partner. This prompted the church to partner with the organisation and support the little that we had contributed from the church to support our friends affected by floods," he said Zac Chipangwi, Intern Pastor for Flood Church during one of the relief distribution events held.



870,000

people affected by flooding



325,000

people have received food and cash



5,000

Families have received seeds and fertilisers for winter cropping



2,825

kilograms of HtH have been distributed to health centres



42,440

note books and 14,276 writing pens given to 7,127 learners



4,487

households helped with tarpaulins or black paper

Mechanised Water System Transforms Melita's School



Melita has a new lease of life. / WORLD VISION / OWEN ZAYAMBKA



88.7%
Achievement on targets

173,622
people gained access to sanitation facilities.



16,710
people have gained access to clean water in the past 6 months

Sixteen-year-old Melita nearly dropped out of school. Lack of access to clean and safe water at school made her educational life difficult.

"I could not concentrate on my studies. The water situation at the school was not supportive to personal health and hygiene for me as a girl," says Melita. To survive at the school, she and the rest of the senior learners at the school carried their own water to school in buckets.

A nearby borehole in one of the surrounding villages offered no hope. There, over 200 households fought for a turn to get water, every day. The struggle for water was real, especially for school-going chil-

dren like Melita.

"There was always unending quarrels between school children and community members", says Charles Mumba, the primary school's headteacher.

He adds that the water problem at both the school and surrounding villages forced children to use water from unprotected sources, a situation that put many lives at high risk of contracting waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea. As such, many children often came to school late because they spent a significant amount of time fetching water to take it to school instead of preparing for their classes.

But, a new mechanised tap water system at the school has transformed lives of many children and the rest of the community members. The supply system was installed by World Vision with the aim of elevating children's health through access to clean and safe water.

For Melita, the new water supply facility is a huge leap in her life, especially in her education journey. "I am excited because water is available anytime and near us. I am enjoying my lessons without any problem related to water stress," she says.

The mechanised water system is currently pumping water from a borehole that

was sunk many years ago. With three kiosks (each with four taps) supplying water to the school and the surrounding village, the impact and reach has been significant.

Headteacher Mumba says the easy access to safe water at the school motivated many children to start school or continue attending classes. "In the second term of 2021-2022 school calendar year, the school registered 285 new learners. Most of these learners have been 'lured' to school by the availability of good water," says Mumba.

He adds that design of the water kiosks with four taps ensures multiple access and use for learners, which reduces congestion and allows learners to go back in class in good time. Currently, the school has 1,532 enrolled children.

Apart from serving the school, the mechanised system is also supplying water to surrounding communities with three more kiosks serving over 200 households.

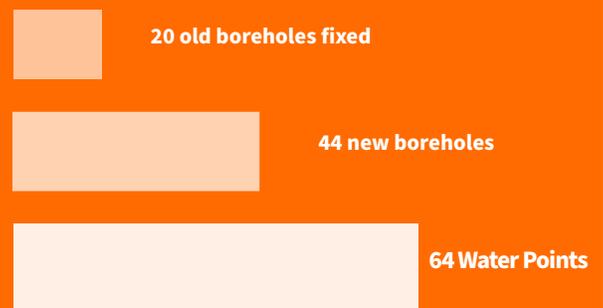
Groundwater is a great resource that is being celebrated in this year's World Water Day. This year's theme focuses on the vital role of groundwater in water and sanitation systems, agriculture, industry, ecosystems and climate change adaptation. The key message is that protecting and sustainably using groundwater is central to surviving and adapting to climate change and meeting the needs of a growing population hence the need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource.

At World Vision, water security and resilience is one of our water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming areas, with a view to ensuring sustained water availability.

"Our approach to water security requires looking 'beyond the pipe' to the broader integrity of ecosystems and catchments accompanied by the mitigation of water pollution. We view upstream interventions to improve watershed management including forest conservation, farmer managed natural regeneration, erosion control, and artificial groundwater recharge—as a critical aspect of safeguarding the downstream drinking water supply," reads our Global WASH Business Plan for 2021 – 2025.

Adopting strategies for integrated water resource management is surely the best approach in ensuring ever-presence of groundwater that is largely used in mechanised supply systems like the one at this school. We are hopeful that protecting groundwater systems would increasingly serve a generation of children like Melita towards realising their potential in life through improved access to safe water.

Water Points Provided

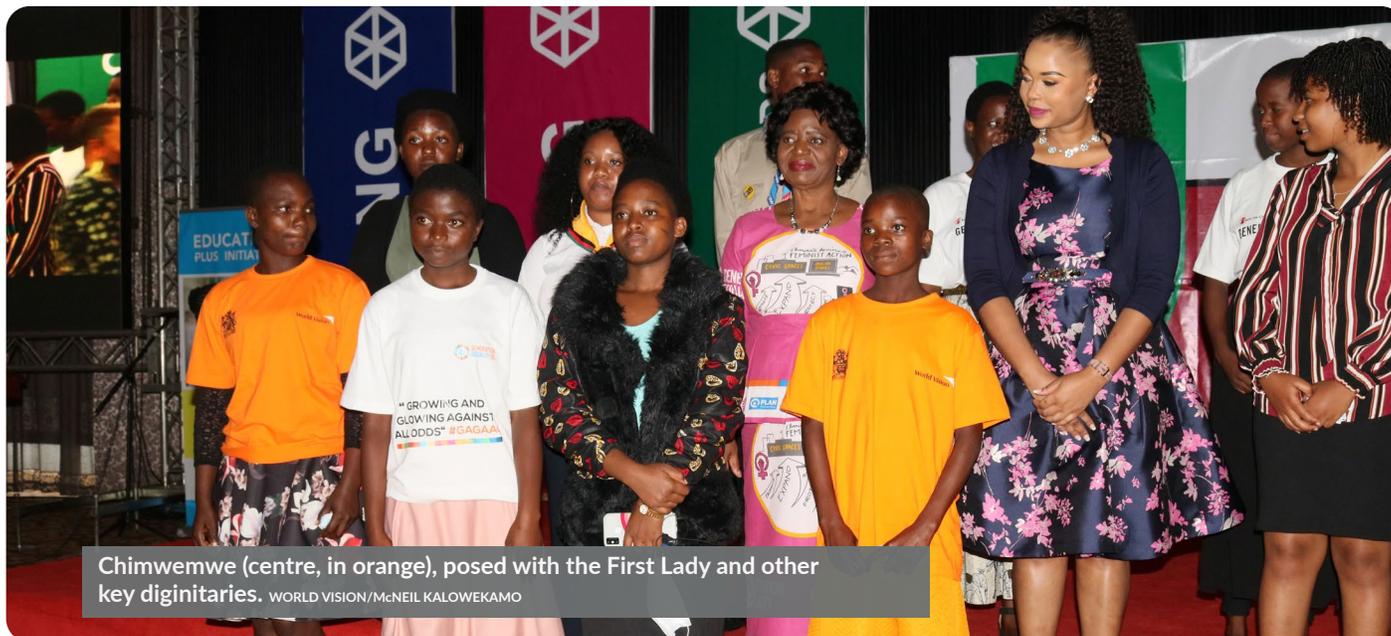


Progress towards goal

16,710

Have gained access to clean water since October, 2021.

Chimwemwe Lives her Name



Chimwemwe (centre, in orange), posed with the First Lady and other key dignitaries. WORLD VISION/McNEIL KALOWEKAMO

Joy!

This is the best feeling ever in life. And on Friday, 8th April, 2022, Chimwemwe, 13, experienced the length and breadth of this feeling.

Ironically, that's the literal meaning of her name, and she had a practical living experience of it.

With support from World Vision Malawi, the young girl travelled more than 320 kilometres from Chiradzulu to Lilongwe. The purpose? To attend a major global conference on gender equality.

From 7th to 9th April, Malawi hosted a High Level Intergenerational Dialogue on Generation Equality and Women's Leadership Conference in Lilongwe. Among others, the gathering was aimed at grooming and inspiring a future generation of leaders through interaction of women leaders and young girls.

The marquee Bingu International Conven-

tion Centre (BICC) was privileged to host influential women leaders across the African continent and beyond.

From Malawi's former and first female head of state Dr. Joyce Banda, to former Liberia's President Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the gathering had a terrific atmosphere of inspiration for young girls.

Add to that emerging inspirational voices in the names of Madame Monica Chakwera, Malawi's current First Lady; Mary Chilima, spouse to Malawi's Vice President; and Jewel Taylor, current vice president of Liberia, this was a gathering made in heaven and with great spectacle.

The voices that many young girls like Chimwemwe knew through the radio only, they saw and met them in flesh. And the conference was draped with their motivational speeches.

In the macho era where barriers for women and girls to attain their potential are many,

the platform proffered resilient stories of women currently sitting at the apex of power.

The First Lady Madame Chakwera had a powerful testimony.

"My brother and I got selected to secondary school at the same time. Because of lack of funds, my mother made sure I go first, my brother could wait.

Her understanding was that if my brother gets married, he can still go back to school but if I get married, I can't," Madame Chakwera said.

"Now I realise that for a girl child, education is the bottom line. Without education, you cannot understand the social norms that promote inequality and how best to protect yourself from them," she added.

Dr. Joyce Banda, who is also chairperson for Women's Empowerment and Development (WED), offered a rendition of perseverance.

“Many times I fell, I rose. I never gave up. From failure, I drew lessons. My parents always encouraged me to be strong, never cry in public because you don’t get attention from men by crying, instead, they will abuse you more,” she said.

Madame Mary Chilima touched on a most sticky issue that often derails the dreams of many young girls: early marriage.

“Here in Malawi, we are struggling with child marriages because our girls are groomed for marriage from an early age.

Please girls, marriage is not an achievement. You have to develop your own value as an individual before you enter marriage to minimize the risk of exposure to abuse,” Madame Chilima said.

She called on mothers to raise girls who value their integrity, honour and hardworking spirit.

These powerful voices breathed a long lasting motivation to Chimwemwe.

Having interacted with the best among women leaders within and beyond Malawi, including posing for a group photo with Malawi’s First Lady Madam Monica Chakwera, Chimwemwe was so pumped up with self-esteem.

She is now so motivated to become an influential leader in future.

“The conference has instilled in me the confidence and drive to continue with my education and become a great leader in future,” said the child parliamentarian from World Vision’s Onga Area Programme in Chiradzulu.

A group photo with Malawi’s First Lady unlocked all the joy from Chimwemwe.

“I am so excited to have a picture with Madame Chakwera. Her presence has inspired me to be like her in future,” she said.

Her adventure did not end there. Chimwemwe also had memorable photos with Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare Dr. Patricia Kaliati.

She also networked with Sellotinah Kanyemba, a poet who recited an inspiration poem titled “A Real Woman”, which talked about the evolution of a woman from the past to the present through a highlight of her strengths.

Chimwemwe had to surely hunt for the poet, take a picture with her and get her phone number.

“Her poem touched me. It enlightened me as a girl child that I have the potential to do more than what boys and men can do,” she said.

For Chimwemwe, it was a milestone to represent millions of girls out there who could never step their feet into this room that reeked with the presence of powerful women.

In her address, Madame Mary Chilima called on all the Chimwemwes present at the conference to be the vessels of encouragement to their counterparts in the rural areas.

“There are many girls out there who have no idea what it means to be equals. So, it is critical we do not live out these rural girls,” Madame Chilima said.

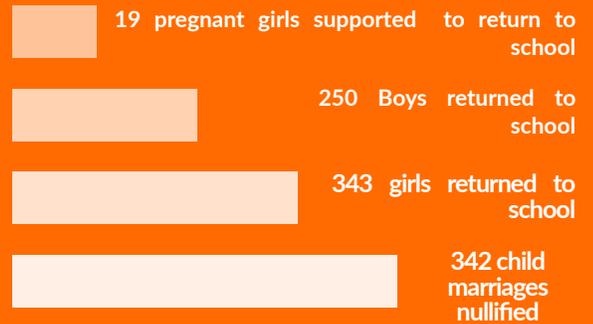
Chimwemwe was among a 21-girl delegation that came with World Vision Malawi (WVM) to attend this historical high level engagement of women leaders and young girls.

WVM’s Director for Advocacy, Communications and Child Protection, Charles Gwengwe said the conference gave the girls a lifetime opportunity by being in the same room with female heads of state.

“Interacting with these high profile leaders will motivate them to become the dream they have, they are so energized,” Gwengwe said.

Chimwemwe came, saw and lived the best ever moment of her life.

It Takes Malawi to End Child Marriage



Towards Ending Child Marriage



Halima and Anifa Thrive in School as Malaria Falls



Halima and Anifa, outside their classroom.
WORLD VISION/COLLINS KHULANI

After two weeks of sickness from Malaria, Halima failed exams. But thanks to an IRS project, she doesn't suffer anymore.

A three-week absence from school was enough for Halima to fail her 2020 end-of-term exams.

After being housebound for weeks due to malaria, Halima returned to school in Malawi just so she could sit the exams ... but she'd missed many lessons.

"I got very sick and I was bedridden for two weeks. I spent another week home to ensure I had recovered fully," recalls Halima.

Unfortunately, she failed her exams and was forced to repeat Grade 4.

Halima says this was her second bout of

malaria that school term, and her third of that year.

Malawi's 2019 Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) reports that malaria has grave socioeconomic impacts on education for children from marginalised communities through school absenteeism, loss of productive hours and high expenditure for prevention and treatment.

As Halima was repeating standard four in 2021, her family benefited from World Vision's Indoor Residual Spray project that was being implemented in her district. Through this project, chemicals were sprayed onto interior walls of hou-



“Since World Vision brought this project, the attendance has improved tremendously. I have all my learners most days,” Ireen.



ses to kill malaria-causing mosquitos.

“Ever since, I have not had malaria,” claims Halima. “Of course, sometimes I was sick, but when we went to the hospital, it was not malaria,” she adds.

Accepting and making new friends

As Halima repeated Standard 4, her fear was over the friends who had gone past her. She was afraid of what her new classmates would say.

Laughing, Halima says she thought they’d say, “I am old and a failure.”

But when she met Anifa in class, all that fear went away. The two quickly became friends, both in and out of school, helping each other with class work.

About a month before their exams, the scourge of malaria returned. This time for Anifa.

The 12-year-old girl became sick and was admitted to the hospital, where she spent three days receiving treatment.

Just three days after she was discharged from hospital, Anifa went straight to sit for her end-of-term exams. Halima was there to welcome and encourage her.

“It was tough to write the examinations.

I felt like my brain was exploding. I had a severe headache throughout the period,” she says.

Lucky for Anifa, she did not fail. She was promoted to Standard Five, where she continues with her dream to become a medical doctor and enjoys Halima’s friendship.

An endemic problem for education

Halima and Anifa’s experiences are widely shared by other learners across Malawi. Malaria has frustrated their ability to thrive in education.

Studies in the country have established that primary school children are vulnerable to the disease, which can cause untimely deaths among them.

In 2020 alone, Malawi recorded about seven million malaria cases which claimed 2,500 lives.

Since 2019, World Vision, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has been running the Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) intervention to kill malaria-causing mosquitos.

By December 2021, World Vision completed the spraying of 516,225 houses in Mangochi, Balaka and Nkhata Bay districts, where the project is being implemented.

“I am excited because the initiative is keeping us safe from the bites of infectious mosquitos”, Anifa declares.

Halima adds, “I am assured of my good health and safe environment. I will just work hard in school and keep improving in education.”

Ireen Msangambe, a Standard Five teacher at the girls’ school, tells us that her students’ attendance was “sketchy” before. “The sick book was dominated by malaria.”

“Since World Vision brought this project, the attendance has improved tremendously. I have all my learners most days,” she adds.

Burden lifted on hospitals

As malaria cases fall, health workers in the district are relieved. According to Lamusi Abudu, since World Vision started the project, malaria cases have fallen by 52%, from 386 in 2019 to 183 in 2021.

Malawi’s malaria strategy aims to reduce malaria cases to 192 cases per 1,000 people by the end of 2022.



World Vision Malawi launches Bible distribution exercise

World Vision Malawi on Thursday 14th April, 2022 launched a bible distribution exercise in the central region towards promoting mindset change through spiritual growth.

The ceremony took place at Nkhwazi Primary School in Mchinji.

Speaking during the event, World Vision Malawi National Director Francis Dube said for people to change their mindset in various aspects of life, they need to have good character, which can be obtained through teachings from the bible.

“Mindset change starts with character, attained through practicing the Word of God. Good character puts us in the right standard with God and our families,” Dube said.

He added that mindset change requires moral values in love and unity that need to be instilled especially in children.

“As an organization, our focus is to ensure that children enjoy their life in fullness, which strengthens their relationship with God, their families and the communities they live in. It is important to strengthen their foundations of growth and instill the rightful values that puts them as rightful members of society,” said Dube.

Amon Chakanika of Scripture Union of Malawi also expressed a similar point of view, stating that dynamic and new way of thinking have to start from an early age if Malawi is to achieve its development goals in various sectors.

“The Malawi 2063 development agenda talks of mindset change as one of the key drivers to development. A person cannot change if the thinking remains the same. Cultivating a new way of thinking especially in children is a step in the right direction,” Chakanika said.

He added that his organization and World Vision have a huge task of empowering children and adults in realising their potential through ministering the word of God.

Apart from Scripture Union of Malawi, World Vision Malawi is also partnering with Pastors Fraternal groups in spreading the word of God through bible distribution.

Chairperson for Waliranji Pastors Fraternal Noel Chikatuwa said the bible distribution exercise will strengthen the church in spreading the word of God among children.

“In our area, we have 40 bible clubs that we work with, we look forward to continue bringing together children of all beliefs in sharing the word of God through bible studies,” Chikatuwa said.

The event at Nkhwazi School Ground was spiced with choir performances, bible verse recitals and sermons from prominent servants of God that included Reverend Yasin Gama of Mvama Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in Lilongwe.

During the launch, World Vision distributed 450 Chichewa bibles, 288 English bibles, 2500 booklets about Empowered Worldview for Children, 400 Rich for Life booklets among others.

World Vision Malawi received a donation of \$150,000.00 from World Vision US in 2020 to procure and distribute bibles in its impact areas.

So far, 11 000 bibles have been distributed in northern and southern regions of Malawi.

The exercise targets to distribute 15, 000 bibles across by the end of the exercise.



World Vision Malawi National Director, Francis Dube, hands over a Bible to a Faith Leader from Mchinji

Toiling Futures Away



Twaibu is 15 years old, and only in grade three. He should be well ahead in school, probably in grade eight by now. But he had been toiling the years away, herding goats for his family from sunrise to sundown, therefore hindering him from attending school as he desired.

"I would only eat in the evenings after I came back from the field. Because I did not have shoes, I used to go barefoot. I have stepped on thorns so many times I can't even count, my feet would get swollen but still I had to go out to herd the goats because my family relied on me to do it." Narrates Twaibu.

"In the event that we completely did not have food at home, we would eat wild fruits called nthudza," he says.

Twaibu is among a group of young boys that have recently returned to school, all thanks to the advocacy and child protection work that World Vision and the communities are doing.

For some of these children, their parents would let them go to school in the morning hours, before proceeding to herd goats after classes.

Yet for some, school was entirely out of

the question.

"Sometimes the goats would be sold, and the money realized therein used to buy school materials and food at home, that's why it was important that we herd the goats diligently," says Precious, 13.

These young boys have had their childhood taken away for so long, but we hope, that this marks a turn-around for them: to be young, carefree and educated.

"I enjoy coming to school now, because I get to interact with my friends, and the subjects we learn are really interesting. I love mathematics and English, and hopefully one day I can be a teacher," says Twaibu.

"It is to be noted, that not all work is classified as child labour, as it all depends on the type of work, and the hours worked. However, we noticed that communities here are unaware of child rights, as they think it is all part of chores that children are to participate in," explains Joseph Chikwapula, the Child Sponsors-hip team leader.

Joseph says they engaged community volunteers, who in turn engaged parents

to realize the importance of school and the dangers of having children work for too long in bad weather and without food.

Bundled up, these boys, ranging from 9 – 15 years old, have a similar story to tell. Of walking for long hours and longer distances; of taking baths in water streams and rivers; of having just one meal per day, and sometimes barely eating; of missing school and missing out on play time as children.

According to the International Labor Organization, "child labour is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development."

Child labor takes away from the children their rights to play, to education and to a safe space. Poverty and lack of civic education ranks top among the reasons why child labour is rampant in Chitundu, Dedza. For this reason, World Vision used the Citizen Voice and Action model to sensitize communities against child labour.

Flood Survivors Hail Support

Following the disruption to livelihoods caused by recent flooding disasters in southern Malawi, NICO Group of Companies and World Vision have come to the aid of households that were affected by disaster in Chikwawa district.

The two organisations partnered to distribute relief items worth 27 Million Malawi Kwacha (USD25, 000) to 1,000 families affected by Tropical Storm Ana and Tropical Cyclone Gombe. Each household received maize flour (20 kgs), Cooking Oil (2 litres), Soy Chunks (5 kgs), a bucket and plastic cups.

“I am very grateful to NICO and World Vision for the food we’ve received. Life hasn’t been easy since the flooding hit us and there’s no work that we can do to survive as we still have water in most of our gardens”, said Mary Banda who lost her house and all that was in it, including some livestock.

On behalf of NICO, Mandala said that his organisation was pushed to make an impact to the flood victims following an appeal by World Vision.

“As a company, we had to do this in the spirit of the Malawian culture where we support each other in times of need. At NICO, we are a support system to the Government, that is why we decided to take part in helping people affected by floods,” he said, before making his own appeal to other corporate entities to step forward.

On his part, World Vision’s National Director, while appreciating NICO’s gesture, sounded an alarm for the long-term disaster set to emerge from the back-to-back flooding episodes that have hit the region.

“It’s a big relief for many people today and we are very thankful to NICO group for making us their partner of choice in all their disaster responses for the past seven years”, stated Dube.

“However, this is just the onset of a very long road of recovery for most of these families.

They need food and more tools to rebuild their lives. So our appeal remains the same to other corporate entities to step in and stand with us so we can stand with children and families in need.”

World Vision is working in all eight districts that were strongly battered by the flooding disasters.

Additionally, the organisation has responded to some pockets of communities that were affected in the central region districts of Lilongwe and Dedza.

In total, World Vision has supported more than 70,000 of the around 500,000 people (nearly half of them children) affected by the disasters.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqqqKszGLs>



World Vision's Business Development Officer, Martha, praying with Alinafe in Dindi, Phalombe. Alinafe's family was badly hit by Tropical Storm Gombe induced flooding. WORLD VISION/CHARLES KABENA

Lenato Scales New Heights



My performance has improved- Lenato



Of learners in Standard three in World Vision impact areas can read and write with comprehension, according to a World Vision TP evaluation, 2020

13-year-old Isaac Lenato is counted amongst the most hardworking learners at Manyamba Primary School in Mulanje. Since he started school, the standard seven learner has always been among the top performing in his class.

However, despite being among the best, Lenato has consistently struggled in languages, especially English. According to records, his reading and writing has often averaged a score of 40 percent in examinations.

“I used to struggle to read and write with comprehension, and my performance was poor,” Lenato, an aspiring doctor said.

At present, Lenato is slowly turning into an English genius, thanks to World Vision’s Spelling Bee initiative.

This is a competition World Vision has helped energise in Malawi by working with different partners.

Through the spelling bee platform, learners from different schools in Malawi meet to contest. World Vision is building capacity of rural schools and sponsoring the awards given, all the way to the national phase.

During the Spelling Bee qualifiers involving six schools with thirteen participants, he emerged top having spelt all words correctly.

World Vision Malawi is conducting a spelling contest targeting schools for both schools in its Area Programmes and those out of it across the country to help learners attain age-appropriate literacy skills.

“We partnered with the spelling Bee group and other groups to help learners develop their literacy skills after noticing their challenges in reading and writing”, said World Vision Malawi’s Technical Programme Manager, Thandeka Nkhonde. For example, a recent survey done by World Vision revealed that only 16 percent of grade three learners are able to read and write with comprehension.

The spelling bee competition has gone on to complement World Vision’s unlock literacy intervention which provides reading materials for learners and urges parents and guardians to support them with the reading process.

“The competition is motivating learners and it is improving their performance. Because the learners want to do better in

the contest, they are now reading supplementary books, which is enriching their understanding of written and spoken words,” Robin Kasitomu, Head Teacher at Manyamba Primary School said.

With an established spelling competition, Manyamba Primary School formed a Spelling Bee Club in 2020 with Lenato among the founding members.

“I was encouraged to join the club, and later on, the competition after seeing that those taking part were improving in their performance. While I did not go further in the competition last year, my performance in class has improved, I am now getting around 70 percent in English,” Lenato said.

Due to the competition, Lenano is reading more books and steadily improving.

“Now I’ve been selected to represent my school in the Spelling Bee this year, and I am practicing harder so that I compete at the international level. My practice involves a lot of reading and reciting,” he said.

In Mulanje, World Vision is implementing the initiative in Limbuli Education Zone. Education authorities in the district attest that since the coming in of the initiative, performance of the zone in Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations (PSLCE) has improved.

“For your own information, because of the positive impact of the Spelling Bee, the teacher whose students got the highest number of A-grades in PSLCE in Mulanje came from this zone. So it motivates not only the learners but the teachers too”, revealed Cryton Tambala, Chief Education Officer for Mulanje District Education Office said.



World Vision’s Development Facilitator for Kameme community, Richard Mdulamizu, handing over presents to winner of the Spelling Bee competition in Kameme.

What have we done in Education?



LITERACY

Literacy Volunteers have been trained to support learners in out of school reading activities

LEARNERS

Learners are participating in literacy activities both in and out of a structured learning environment

CLUBS

learners are participating in School clubs that are helping them improve in their reading and writing.

Recipe of Hope

It was in March 2020 when Rhoda Chaweza noted her child was underweight. Agnes was born on 26th August 2018 in Pathewe Village, Phalombe district in southern Malawi, the 6th born in a family of 7.

While she was born healthy, by the time she was 20 months old, she weighed a measly 4kgs. Rhoda then decided to seek help from the nutrition care group available in her Village.

“When Rhoda approached me I thought her child had only lost a little weight but upon seeing Agnes, her scrawny and frail appearance was a sight for sore eyes,” says Jenifer Kalulu the cluster leader for the programs care group in Pathewe village.

Baby Agnes was instantly diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition which is defined by a mid-upper arm circumference between 11 and 12.5cm. Regrettably for little Agnes, she was on the lower end at only 11cm. She was immediately put on an Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) for 2 months and was improving but alas COVID 19 struck and the funding that was available for her OTP stopped. The light of the situation was suddenly dimmed.

“I started losing hope when the funding stopped because I did not have enough money to buy formula and porridge, her health started deteriorating,” says Rhoda.

Baby Agnes's condition continued to dwindle so much that in September 2021 she was admitted at a Nutritional Rehabilitation Unit, where upon being discharged her mother wondered how she was going to maintain the

improvement in her child as she had not only lacked resources but had no knowledge in food preparation and diversification. “I worried about the situation going back to before being admitted

For 12 consecutive days care givers were taught on how to prepare nourishing meals with the available food stuffs in their communities.

“They taught us four different types of porridge recipes using maize, sorghum, vegetables and groundnuts among others.” adds Rhoda.

Amazingly Baby Agnes has made steady progress throughout the session. She now weighs 11kg and her mid-upper arm circumference is at 13cm, an indication of her road to recovery. “I can now prepare different types of nutritious meals from the food that we grow, thank you World Vision and the WFP, you saved my baby,” says Agnes.

“I was actually shocked by her progress. I never, ever thought that she would be able to stand or walk but now she can play like other children her age,” comments Catherine Mwenyendawo who is the cluster leader for the Nutrition Sensitive Project in Pathewe village.



at the NRU,” adds Rhoda.

Luckily for baby Agnes, she was put under close supervision by the responsible Health Services Assistant. Rhoda was introduced to a complimentary community feeding learning session facilitated by World Vision Malawi with support from the World Food Program.

Through this program Rhoda and 170 other women were taught on the dietary management of moderate acute malnutrition.

In Malawi Malnutrition remains a serious challenge as only 8% of children meet the minimum acceptable dietary intake. The Complimentary Community Feeding Learning Session is one of the interventions that World Vision Malawi is implementing in Phalombe district. With a budget of USD69, 222 the program has benefitted at least 35,256 people.

42, 208
women reached with
nutrition messages

42, 208
women reached with
nutrition messages

45, 425
children attended villa-
ge nutrition clinics

10, 568
cases of ARI reported,
along with 2, 892 cases
of diarrhea.

Reviving shattered

Dreams



Back at school, this time, determined.

While her mates woke up early in the morning, took a bath and set off for school, Kholeh, 14 year old then, decided to do the opposite as she opted against pursuing her studies.

In grade six of her studies at Manyamba Primary School in the southern region district of Mulanje, Kholeh decided she had had enough of classroom education following an incident involving her love life.

“At that time, I was dating a certain boy but I never slept with him. So this other day I went out and there I met a friend of mine and I ended up sleeping at her place. But when this happened, my parents thought that I had slept at my boyfriend’s house,” Kholeh explained.

She added; “Following this, my parents started talking a lot of bad things, and so was the community. Some even suspected that I was pregnant and after realizing that it was not true, they started spreading lies that I had an abortion, and at school, my friends mocked me. All this pissed me off and I decided to quit school.”

The decision to drop out of school meant the end of Kholeh’s dreams of becoming a soldier, a career she has always desired, as she feels obliged to protect her country from foreign threats.

Alarmed with Kholeh’s decision to

leave school, Manyamba Primary School teachers intervened. Through several engagements, they managed to persuade her to come back to school.

“Following words of inspiration from the head teacher and other teachers from my school, I realized that I made a wrong decision, and that is how I returned to school,” Kholeh, now 16 years of age said.

“Since I came back, I managed to pass my grade six and seven examinations and I am now expecting to write my Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations. My dreams have been rejuvenated and I am determined than ever to achieve them,” said Kholeh.

As strange as Kholeh’s story might sound, the issue of girls dropping out of school in her area is not new.

Immoral behavior because of peer pressure, poverty and lack of motivation due to limited options in terms of transitioning to secondary education are some of the contributing factors to the problem, according to Manyamba Primary School Head Teacher Robin Kasitomu.

“Some children live with their grandparents, as such, they lack basic needs, drop out of school, and get married,” Kasitomu said.

“In addition, most of them got discour-

aged as they do not get selected to secondary school despite passing their examinations. This is the case as we don’t have a Community Day Secondary School and private schools in our area for them to have options,” he said.

Nonetheless, through World Vision’s Tiwerenge 365 project initiative of school retention, there is hope that the situation will improve. The initiative encourages learners that dropped out of school to return and remain in school.

Agnes Paulo, a member of Manyamba Mother Group said with support from World Vision they have been working on persuading learners that dropped out of school to return and ensure that they stay in school. Their efforts are bearing fruits.

“We visit these girls and explain to them the importance of school and our efforts are bearing fruits,” Paulo said.

“This year alone, we have managed to bring back to school five girls and all of them are still in school.”

“Once we bring them back to school, we don’t stop there. We continue visiting them in school to check how they are settling in; we do this at least once a month. We also take advantage of these visits to encourage other girls in school for them not to leave school,” she added.

In most cases, learners that return having dropped out of school end up leaving again as they are usually mocked by their fellow learners. This is why teachers at Manyamba are more committed in creating a conducive environment for these learners to remain in school.

“Once these learners are returned to school, we warmly welcome them and we are making sure that their fellow learners do not discriminate against them. We have put in place deliberate rules for the learners to feel at home,” Kasitomu said.

Staff Updates



Reuben Sang
Finance

Reuben joined World Vision Malawi in January 2022 on secondment from World Vision Kenya.

He is serving Malawi as Associate Finance Director. A seasoned staff, Reuben has carried the orange of World Vision for 15 years.

Reuben is married, with two Children. A Christian, in Kenya he worships with his family at African Inland Church. Here in Malawi, he attends Capital City Babbist Church.

Though we may be late, but please welcome Reuben wherever you may meet him and make his service in Malawi memorable.

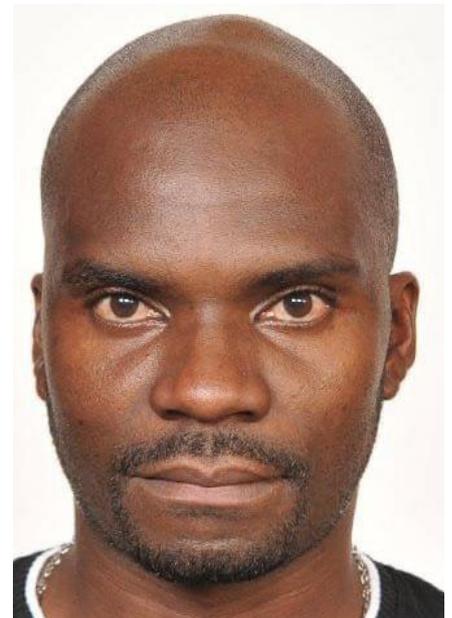


Sunge Makawa
Monitoring & Evaluation

Sunge Makawa joined World Vision a month ago as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, responsible for the Malaria component of the Global Fund grant in Nkhatabay. Sunge has recently worked with Community Action for Sustainable Development Organization in Neno where she was responsible for Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning. Prior to that, she served the District Education Office as Management Information Systems Officer.

She holds a Master's degree in Data Science obtained from the University of Rwanda and a Bachelor's degree in Statistics from University of Malawi.

A devout Catholic, Sunge worships at the St. Francis Catholic Parish.



McNeil Kalowekamo
Communications

Mcneil joined World Vision Malawi some five months ago as Communications Officer for the North Zone.

He was roped in from United Purpose where he served in a similar role in one of their projects in Dowa. Prior to that, he had served the Malawi Human Rights Commission and Malawi Government under the Ministry of Information.

Mcneil is married to one wife with whom they are blessed with a child. An ardent Catholic, Mcneil and his family worship at Don Bosco.





Upcoming Events



Semifinals are here!
12-19 May



GESI Learning Event
23-26 May



SAR to Visit Malawi
28-29 May

Spelling Bee Regional Finals are set to take place from May, 2022. The Northern Region will lead the way on 12th May, followed by the centre on 17th of the same month. Schools in the south will battle out on the 19th.

“Along with our partners, everything is set. The learners are ready to showcase what they are learning and we can’t wait to see who makes it to the finals”, said Makayiko Kayimba, World Vision Malawi’s Coordinator for literacy interventions in the north zone.

In 2022, World Vision USA will, for the first time, bring together GESI stakeholders from across the world to take stock of the experiences and knowledge gained in integrating gender equality and social inclusion in different sector programs in the field and to plan on how to bring GESI promising practices to scale.

The event, hosted by Malawi, will follow the launch of World Vision’s GESI toolbox, which includes its GESI Approach and Theory of Change. Malawi’s First Lady, Madame Monica Chakwera is expected to grace the event.

A team of senior leaders from the Southern Africa Regional Office are set to visit Malawi to appreciate the progress of key interventions being implemented in the country.

This follows another recent visit by the Senior Director of Operations for SAR, Abi Riak who interacted with participants of the organisation’s development work in Nkhoma and Dowa districts.

“We are excited to host this team. In Malawi, culturally, we believe that a progressive household is supposed to receive visitors”, said Chimombo, World Vision Malawi’s Director of Operations.

Changing Lives



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