

# GESI DAILY

GESI LEARNING FORUM NEWSLETTER



## GESI Forum off to a Strong Start!

World Vision US kickstarted a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Global Learning Forum on Monday 23 May, 2022. The goal of the forum, being held in Lilongwe, Malawi is 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 follows the launch of World Vision's GESI toolbox, which includes its GESI Approach and Theory of Change, GESI key concepts and reference guides, GESI Promising Practices, GESI measurement methods in the DME Toolkit, GESI capacity-building and training.



The much-anticipated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Forum has officially begun in Lilongwe, Malawi, with delegates from 11 countries crossbreeding ideas and share best practices.

Presiding over the opening ceremony of the conference, Dr. Patricia Kaliati, Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development in the Malawi government applauded World Vision for its impactful interventions implemented across the world and the continued spirit of learning.

Kaliati acknowledged the efforts that the government and World Vision, as a partner, have been directing towards equality and social inclusion of vulnerable groups within the Malawi context. However, she indicated that there's more that ought to be done to achieve the desirable goals.

"Time has come to talk about both men and women, not just the men. Let's look into the participation and decision-making of vulnerable, and all classes of people. We commend you World Vision and UN for all the programmes you are implementing, but we need to scale up the focus on socially excluded people," she said.

**“There is no meaningful development when people do not treat each other with respect, if children are neglected and abused, if people of albinism are butchered.**

**We want a society where each and every individual is able to exercise their rights without oppression.**

**- Dr Patricia Kaliati ”**

Kaliati further said: "In agreement with World Vision and other organisations, government has embarked on mind-set change as a key driver to national development. Therefore, let us keep engaging and discussing for more sustainable development."

During the opening ceremony, World Vision USA through its Vice President, Resource Development, Mike Odera, gave a gift to Malawi's First Lady, Monica Chakwera. Presenting the plaque, received by Hon. Kaliati, Odera said that gender equality is important in attaining child well-being outcomes for World Vision.

"We want to continue doing the good work of serving the most vulnerable, but collecting GESI evidence of impact is the key. As we document GESI promising practices, we use our GESI approach and we focus on those strategies, approaches or activities that have worked really well in our program terms of GESI, and those that have the potential of replication", said Odera.

Earlier on, Francis Dube, National Director for World Vision in Malawi, welcomed the World Vision delegation. "We are honored to have all of you here. As we interact, we hope to be empowered and to learn from one another from a broader platform," said Dube.

The event has brought together 120 people from 11 countries, including Malawi, the host.

Apart from World Vision Staff, attending the forum are technical experts from different organisations including UN Women, and the Malawi government. The forum runs from Monday 23rd to Thursday, 26th May, 2022 with participants expected to explore ways of mobilizing evidence of impact and scaling up GESI promising practices.



Francis Dube, National Director, World Vision Malawi.



Mike Odera, Vice President, Resource Development, World Vision USA.

## Mainstream GESI- Appeals Ogega

World Vision USA Senior Director of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Dr Jacqueline Ogega has appealed to organisations and governments to integrate gender equality and social inclusion as the best way of attaining prosperous societies. She made the remarks as she joined a list of prominent people who opened the GESI Learning Forum in Malawi.

Sharing stories that have inspired her from Malawi, Honduras and Bangladesh, Dr. Ogega challenged that lives change when people are rightly empowered to decide their fate.

Dr. Ogega outlined that World Vision USA is committed to scale up mainstreaming of GESI through improvements in resource acquisition, programming quality and impact as well as accountability, especially safeguarding children and project partners.

She then appealed for all countries championing GESI in World Vision to do more.

"When we know and understand systematic barriers such as policies, laws and culture, what then are we doing to remove those barriers? If we follow GESI and apply it at the individual level of families then onto communities, then, the excluded groups will have a voice and solutions to help solve their own problems. And as development workers, we are simply facilitating what they want and need, and helping to empower all people in the long run", She said.



Dr. Jacqueline Ogega

## GESI Learning Forum Inspires Countries

Following the commencement of the GESI Learning Forum in Malawi, Dr Leticia Nkonya Technical Advisor of GESI, World Vision USA has reiterated that the whole reason World Vision United States organized the forum was for people to learn.

"We wanted these people, these offices, these countries, to engage in a robust exchange of operational knowledge, promising practices, research, and tools that can improve the integration of GESI into our programming.

"So, since we started today, we've heard countries presenting, with evidence on how as World Vision we are attaining GESI transformative impact in health, child protection, education, food security and livelihoods, economic empowerment and other areas, which is critical to our child wellbeing aspirations", said Dr. Nkonya.

The Global Learning Forum on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), which has started today in Malawi has proved to be an invaluable learning platform for organisations and government officials participating.

Dr Leticia Nkonya Technical Advisor of GESI,  
World Vision USA

In her remarks, Ayu Siantoro, Programme Research and Innovation Specialist from World Vision Indonesia said this is what they had been looking forward to.

"I have learnt from colleagues at this forum that regardless of our different countries, the issues and challenges are the same. We are trying to improve people's lives and this forum has given us a platform to share those experiences".

Siantoro was among the opening day's presenters and shared how World Vision Indonesia is facilitating economic development by tackling climate change using the mindset change approach.

World Vision USA is financially supporting the forum which is running up to March 26th.

# More women aspire for leadership in Sierra Leone

World Vision in Sierra Leone says many women have taken up leadership roles at both household and community level, thanks to a Women Empowered for Leadership and Development (WELD) Project being implemented in the country.

Design, Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Manager for World Vision Sierra Leone, Mark Mutai said this on Monday during the on-going Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Learning Forum in Lilongwe, Malawi.



Mark Mutai, DME and Accountability Manager. Sierra Leone

One of the women to make a break in political leadership is Councilor Zainab who is quoted as saying that men are now consulting women on a number of critical issues in development.

"Within the short time that I have served in the council, women have taken up roles that were traditionally held by men. For the first time, a lady is chairing a youth committee in the chiefdom," Zainab said.

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For Malawi, Nthamyo presented on the positive impact of mind-set change in Empowered World View.

According to Mutai, empowering initiatives such as Savings for Transformation, adult literacy trainings and mentorship of, aspiring female political leaders are driving many women to break barriers in male dominated field like politics.

"There is increased women participation in leadership and political engagement at both local and national level, a development that was not there before this project," Mutai said.

He added that most of the empowering economic activities have increased women's self-confidence and self-esteem to see themselves capable of achieving what men can achieve.



## Music Crossroads treats GESI Delegates with traditional dances

Delegates to the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Learning Forum in Lilongwe Malawi experienced something new. Delving into the joy of learning how the 11 countries participating in the forum are breaking gender inequality and scaling social inclusion, participants also enjoyed a surprise performance from a bustling youthful group in Lilongwe. The Group, Music Crossroads, comes from the margins of Lilongwe, in Area 23, where it is inspiring dreams of young people to venture into various forms of performing arts. The group performed different dances that included Beni, Chisamba and Manganje. But did you know the story behind some of the dances that were performed?

### **Beni**

After participating in the two World Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1944, ex-service men developed the dance based on the old military parades performed during the war. In the Beni dance, the performers adorn tunics and Khaki trousers and wear medals and other decorations, if they are too serious about their dancing. All these are reminiscent of the war. Even though women and children didn't partake in the wars, in the Beni dance, they have a role. Beni is popular among the Yao of Mangochi, Salima and Dedza districts. In Zimbabwe and Zambia, this dance is known as Kalele.



### **Manganje**

Another popular dance in southern Malawi, especially among the Yao, is Manganje. This is performed during the initiation of boys. When boys come of age, they leave for and come out of the enclosure (Jando). This dance is performed by their brothers and other seniors as they escort them to seniority. Today, the dance is also performed for entertainment.

### **Chisamba**

Across many cultures in Malawi, female initiation ceremonies are held when girls come of age. Among the Chewa, Chisamba is a complement of the male initiation for gule wankulu. Its purpose is to usher adolescent girls into grown-up women.

The dance is often performed at a tree of maidenhood, often known as 'Mtengo wa Anamwali'. Here, girls receive instructions on the protocols of womanhood, including warnings on predatory males.

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Through male engagement, 9,814 couples in Bangladesh have graduated from gender equality sessions.