



ActionAid Malawi participates in GAWE 2018...

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AAM participates in GAWE 2018

Calls upon Malawi Govt to invest in Education Sector



Pangani, (2nd Right) addressing members of the press at the launch of the 2018 GAWE campaign

In April, 2018, ActionAid Malawi (AAM) participated in the 2018 Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) under the theme: **Accountability for SDG4 and Citizen participation: Keep Your Promises**, with a resounding call on the Malawi Government to meaningfully invest in the education sector to attain Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4

GAWE is an international annual campaign led by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) with support from UNESCO to raise awareness on the importance of education for achieving sustainability and reaching the global education goal by 2030.

Addressing members of the press at the launch of the campaign at AAM Head Offices on 23rd April, 2018, in Lilongwe, AAM, alongside other Civil Society Organizations, namely Civil Society Education Coalition (CSEC) Youth Activista Malawi, Teachers Union of

Malawi (TUM) and DVV International described the 2018 GAWE as an opportunity to influence increased citizen participation in holding governments and the international community accountable to commitments made for the **SDG4** and

“If we as a country can address loopholes in taxes such as the unfavourable incentives, we could generate enough tax revenue which would make recommendations we are making to government today practical,” Peter Pangani.

Education 2030 Agenda.

AAM Head of Programmes and Policy, Peter Pangani, who was one of the panelists at the briefing called upon the government to increase national budgetary allo-

cation to Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme from the current 0.05 to 3 percent in line with the government's commitment under the Education for All Goals.

Pangani was, however, quick to point out that this could only be achieved through an enhanced domestic revenue generation mechanism.

“If we, as a country, can address loopholes in taxes such as unfavorable incentives, we could generate enough tax revenue which would make the recommendations we are making to government today practical,” he said.

Other panelists at the press briefing included; Benedicto Kondowe from CSEC, Pilirani Kamaliza from TUMU, Brenda Mwale from Youth Activista Malawi and David Harrington from DVV International.

Hope for Nsanje Communities as AAM hands over irrigation schemes

Anne Petulo, just like fellow community members in Group Village Tambobo, can now wage a successful war against hunger, thanks to two newly constructed irrigation schemes, Tapulumuka and Ntowe by ActionAid Malawi (AAM).

AAM constructed the irrigation schemes under its Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) project in Nsanje with funding from World Food Programme (WFP). According to AAM project officer, Linda Mwale, construction of the schemes commenced on 13th February and was completed on 27th March 2018. Upon completion of the construction of the schemes, hand over from the contractor to client was done on 6th April 2018 to allow the beneficiaries to start using the schemes.

Gracing the hand-over ceremony were representatives from Nsanje District Council donors from WFP, TA Mbenje, Area Development Committees, Village Development Committees, Water User Committee and community members.

Assistant District Agricultural Development Officer, Mr. Siza Nyasulu, thanked AAM and WFP for developing the schemes which, he said, will change lives of many in the community. He encouraged the community users to take care of the schemes for the benefit of more community members.

T/A Mbenje appreciated the interventions that WFP through AAM are being implementing in his area, saying they are benefiting many people. He said irrigation scheme is an asset in the area and will result into better social economic and food security of beneficiaries through cultivation of different crops throughout the year.



Can't wait? A beneficiary operating one of the Hydrants at the ceremony



Stakeholders appreciating the solar panel which is expected to provide the much-needed energy to the hydrants.



ADC chair expressing his gratitude to AAM and WFP

Progress updates on Social Accountability projects

On 4th April, 2018, AAM through its Social Accountability Project funded by European Union (EU), supported budget review meeting for Phalombe District Council. The meeting was attended by the Council Secretariat, Budget and Finance committee and representatives of the civil society.

The Council presented both the council secretariat and sectorial budgets. The council secretariat also presented projects and achievements that the council has accomplished with Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and District Developed Funds (DDF). During the meeting the Council also shared challenges the council is facing.

Topping the list of challenges was the reduction in council budgets for 2017/2018 financial year.

Stakeholders rated the meeting highly, saying it has improved information flow from the council



Ready to instill a culture of accountability: Stakeholders pose for a group photo after the meeting in Phalombe

to the district stakeholders, thereby improving its accountability and transparency. The council secretariat made a commitment to be holding such meetings every year to increase ownership of the budget.

Meanwhile, AAM, through its sister accountability project funded by Swish Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), conducted Social Accountability Monitoring trainings for MPs and Councilors in Nsanje and Mchinji districts targeting MPs, Councilors and Area Development Committee and Village Development Committee members. In Mchinji, the training reached out to 29 men and 5 females whilst in Nsanje the training reached out to 17 men and 11 females.

Among the agreed areas discussed during the trainings included the need for Mchinji District Council to develop a District Development Plan, engage the councilors in monitoring activities in both districts, increased engagements with the Reflect Action Cycle and support the council to conduct district budget consultations and performance reporting or feedback to the communities.



Training of Councilors and MPs at Campass Lodge in Mchinji

Southern Region Stakeholders hail ECD programme



Phalombe South Parliamentarian, Mary Mpanga, commenting on the presentation

Stakeholders in the Southern Region have hailed the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme, saying it is key to the development of the country. Stakeholders made the remarks on 25th April, 2018, during the regional ECD lobby meeting

organized by ActionAid Malawi (AAM) with funding from the Roger Federer Foundation.

Honourable Mcheka Chilenje, the Nsanje North Member of Parliament, thanked AAM for organizing the meeting, saying ECD is

an important area that needs to be well invested “because the future of Malawi lies in today’s children.” She called upon participants that included, parliamentarians, councilors, traditional authorities, representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) and the University of Malawi-Chancellor College, to begin thinking how they can support ECD programs in their communities and the country as a whole.

At the meeting, traditional authorities and councilors were asked to take a leading role to mobilizing communities to send their children to the ECD centres.

Stakeholders further resolved to lobby for honoraria or financial support for caregivers in food for assets programs or social cash



AAM Nsanje Local Rights Programme Coordinator, Mclean Chimpeni, making a presentation during the meeting

Story of Change

AAM ECD Programme breathes life into Kendekeza CBCC

Before 2014, Kendekeza Community-Based Care Centre (CBCC), was an eye-sore. Despite starting its operations in 2009, the structure, located in Group Village Headman Chamaomba, T/A Kabundula in Lilongwe District, never came close to being called a CBCC.

Supported by old, rickety sticks and thinly roofed by sagging grass, the structure was a mockery to Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the country.

CBCC head care-giver, Mrs. Elina Thomas, has bitter memories of the CBCC.

“The CBCC operations were on and off because there were times the shed was in bad shape such that in rainy seasons, the classes had to be suspended,” she be-moaned.

But the coming of ActionAid Mala-wi (AAM) with a comprehensive ECD programme in the area opened a new page for Ken-dekeza CBCC. Looking at the community’s soaked dreams of a CBCC, AAM incorporated the CBCC in its ECD programme in 2014.

AAM conducted a two-week basic training for 10 caregivers from the CBCC. The training invigorated the centre management committee which mobilised the community leaders and community members to mould bricks in readiness for upgrading their CBCC structure.

AAM funded the construction of the upgraded CBCC, with the community contributing bricks, sand and water.

Today, Kendekeza is a beacon of hope in the community. The modern, spacious structure has seen



Disserted and lifeless: The old Kendekeza CBCC where kids were housed.



New home: The Kendekeza CBCC constructed with support from AAM

enrolment leap from 23 in 2009 to 89 in 2018, with girls comprising 52 of the learners.

Fatima Yakobe, 34, is all smiles upon seeing her 4 year-old daughter attend ECD lessons at Kendekeza.

“This CBCC is as an opportunity to provide our children with a safe and quality environment for learning,” she says.

“I had been looking for this kind of support from an organization like AAM and when the opportunity came, I had to join hands with my

community without any delays to improve ECD standards in the area”.

And with a push from AAM, community around Kendekeza CBCC has cast eyes ahead.

The resource mobilization skills they acquired from AAM-funded training has helped them net another philanthropist, Arise Malawi. Impressed with the good work happening at place, Arise Malawi supported the CBCC with paintings, doors, two pit latrines and a borehole.

Stories of Change

AAM's MCA project transforms lives in Mwetang'ombe-Lisungwi Area



Joyce Ntenda contributing a point during one of the training sessions

The success of ActionAid Malawi (AAM) Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) project can easily be seen in the life of Joyce Ntenda.

Born in 1974, Traditional Authority Dambe, Neno District, Ntenda grew up troubled by her physical challenges which denied her

chance to continue with her education beyond primary level.

Weighed down by poverty and societal exclusion, Ntenda's life was hell on earth. All she had for support were her 8 children.

But the coming in of MCA project

by AAM in 2013 in the district proved a turning point for her.

The project mobilized women, especially marginalized groups and recruited them into the project implementation cycle. Joyce was recruited as a Reflect Action Cycle Facilitator. The project emphasized on working with the marginalized, the poor and excluded people and empowered them to take a leading role in implementing project interventions.

“Through Reflection Action circles, we had an opportunity to be trained in gender and environmental management,” she said.

We were also trained in leadership and I am happy that I can also access loans from my VSL group because I am a member now,” remarked Joyce, acknowledging how she has been empowered by the project.

Mphamba community woodlot; a milestone towards successful resilience building

Mphamba is one proud community with their community woodlot slowly developing into a beautiful village forest. Group Village Headman (GVH) Mphamba is situated in Traditional Authority Tengani in Nsanje District, which lies at the southern tip of Malawi.

The area is prone to flush flooding. In addition to this GVH Mphamba remains very vulnerable to climate change related shocks and hazards such as prolonged dry spells and floods, which greatly affects the main source of livelihoods in the community — farming. The woodlot initiative is one of the resilience building interventions that ActionAid Malawi is promoting in the area under the Food for Assets programme funded by World Food Programme (WFP), with support from USAID. Tree planting is one of the climate adaptation strat-

egies that was chosen by the Mphamba community, through community-based participatory planning (CBPP), with the hope of restoring vegetative cover and controlling river-line and flush floods.

The woodlot was established in 2016 and community has faithfully done the weeding, pruning and watering of young seedlings as they proudly take care of it.



Full of life: Mphamba Woodlot in Nsanje District

Staff Corner: Long serving Bwanaope bids farewell



AAM Executive Director, Mrs Malera(Left) presenting a certificate of recognition to Mr. Bwanaope

On 30th April, 2018, Mr. William Bwanaope bid farewell to ActionAid Malawi (AAM) after 27 years of service.

Bwanaope joined AAM in 1991, when the organization had just started its implementation in the country. He rose through the ranks to the position of Programmes Quality and Effectiveness Manager.

AAM Executive Director, Mrs. Grace Malera, led staff members in expressing gratitude to Bwanaope for his remarkable and selfless contribution towards AAM evolution.

She described Bwanaope as an inspiration to ActionAid family, saying the or-



Bwanaope making his farewell remarks

ganization will still be contacting him whenever the need arises due to his vast experience and knowledge in AAM

AAM presented a certificate of recognition to Mr. Bwanaope for his long and outstanding service at the

organization.

In his farewell address, Bwanaope attributed his long service at AAM to team work and the organization's dynamism.

Bwanaope dedicated the award to his wife whom he