

PICTORIAL FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE HANDOVER CEREMONY

ActionAid Malawi, with support from the Roger Federer Foundation, has been conducting a ten-year **Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Initiative** in Malawi from 2011 until 2021. The initiative was being implemented in ten districts of Chitipa and Rumphi in the Northern region, Lilongwe, Ntchisi, Mchinji and Dedza in the Central region and Machinga, Nsanje, Neno and Phalombe in the Southern region.

The overall aim was “to improve lives and wellbeing of vulnerable children aged between three and six years by promoting access to quality and sustainable Early Childhood Development services.” The initiative costed over USD 13.5 Million and received various contributions from other donors such as Credit Suisse AG, the Roche Employee Action and Charity Trust and the Starbucks Foundation.

To date, the program has constructed 480 Community Based Childcare Centres (CBCCs) including 80 Model CBCCs; increased access to ECD

for children, with 154000 children now accessing quality ECD; up from just 33961 in 2011. Out of whom, 52 000 have transitioned to primary schools. The program has further trained 4777 CBCC management committees and 4833 caregivers and incentivized them with seed money for revolving fund and goat pass-on programs.

The official handover of the program took place on 6th September 2021 at Thamolatha Model CBCC in Traditional Authority Dambe, in Mchinji District and was graced by the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ms. Roselyn Makhumula. This was followed by the National Stakeholder Engagement and a Press Briefing on 7th September, 2021 at the BICC. The press briefing was presided over by the Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Honourable Patricia Kaliati. **Here are the pictorial highlights of the ECD handover events:**



Caregivers and children at Yankho CBCC welcoming the delegates at the centre



Miss Kabambe, a primary school teacher from Chinsapo Primary School in Lilongwe, explaining how transition from CBCC to Primary School works.



Senior Chief Dambe giving welcoming remarks at the event



An ECD learner during a performance at the function



ActionAid Malawi Board Chairperson, Professor Dorothy Nampota, speaking during the event.



Roger Federer Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Janine Haedel speaking during after inspecting Yankho CBCC



Dr. Janine Haedel (left) presenting a CBCC catalogue to Makhumula flanked by ActionAid Malawi Board Chairperson (right) Professor Dorothy Nampota



Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development, Roselyn Makhuluma hailing RFF and ActionAid Malawi for the investment in the ECD and promises its sustainability



Officials and children pose for a group photograph during after the Mchinji event



A cross-section of participants during the stakeholder engagement meeting



ActionAid Malawi Head of Policy and Programmes, Clement Ndiwo-Banda, giving an overview of the ECD project



Roger Federer Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Janine Haedel delivering her remarks during the Stakeholders' Engagement Meeting



Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare addressing participants and members of the press during the ECD press briefing



Stakeholders posing for group photo after the engagement meeting