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FOREWORD

Hello and welcome to our 2022 April Newsletter Edition. The month of April was eventful for ActionAid Malawi and the country as whole. Malawi hosted the First-ever high-level intergenerational dialogue on generation equality and women leadership.

The event provided an opportunity to reflect on the women empowerment struggle and forefront the young women to take up the leadership gauntlet to spearhead gender equality and women leadership in business and politics.

In the same month, ActionAid Malawi was honored to join the Malawi Government in hosting the Roger Federer Foundation (RFF). The RFF, among other engagements in the country, donated the learning kiosk to mentors and caregivers on a School Readiness Initiative programme in the country.

ActionAid Malawi also had engagements on the Social Accountability project and Emergency and Resilience interventions for disaster survivors.

We hope you will enjoy the updates.

Ms. Pamela Kuwali

Executive Director

Malawi Hosts First-Ever High-Level Generation Equality Conference



Uniting for generation equality: Her Excellency Jewel Taylor, Vice President of Liberia (Left) His Excellency, Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, the State President of Malawi (2nd Left) Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda former President of Malawi (Centre) Malawi Minister of Gender and Community Development, Honourable Patricia Kaliati and Her Excellency Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, former President of Liberia (Right) during the official opening ceremony of the conference.

Between 7th to 9th April 2022, Malawi hosted the first ever High-Level International Dialogue on Generation Equality (GE) and Women's Leadership in Africa at Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe. The Conference was held under the theme "Growing and Glowing Against all Odds".

The event that was attended by high-level dignitaries, including former heads of state and global business captains, created an opportunity to facilitate intergenerational dialogue among multi-stakeholder groups on women's leadership and political participation, ending violence against women and girls, women's economic empowerment, and strengthening intergenerational solidarity to retain women leaders and empower young women leaders in the development, humanitarian, and conflict prevention context.

The conference also unveiled the First Women Trade Centre in Lilongwe and the gathering further provided a unique opportunity for networking for women in business at regional, continental and global levels.

The State President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera presided over the official opening of the conference and Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda, in her capacity as current Chairperson of Women's Empowerment and Development (WED) Africa - Asia and Member of the Committee of Elders (comprising of former and seating Female Heads of State) at AU African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), will led the three days' conference.

Other high-level delegates that were in attendance include Her Excellency Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, former President of Liberia; Her Excellency Jewel Taylor, Vice President of Liberia; Her Excellency Catherine Samba Panza, Former Interim President of the Central African Republic and Her Excellency, Joice Runaida Mujuru, Former Vice President of Zimbabwe.

Global business captains and investors who included Dr Gloria Hendon, Former Chair, African and American Businesswomen's Alliances (AABWA) – CEO GB Group Global; Princess Dr A.K. Ocansey of SOS Global Investments; Dr Aman Asfour, African Union Business Council Chairperson, and Ms. Chileshe Mupundu Kapwepwe, COMESA Secretary General were also be in attendance.

The United Nations in collaboration with Generation Equality Forum Core Group appointed Malawi, Netherlands, and Canada as Generation Equality Action Coalition leaders on the 'Women's' Movements and Leadership agenda. The appointment was based on a five-criterion approach, including previous commitments and past records of achievements in pertinence to the Action Coalition's theme.

The action coalition envisions that by 2026, feminist leaders, movements, and organizations, are supported to become sustainable, can carry-out their work towards advancing gender equality, peace, and human rights for all without fear of reprisal.

See some pictorial highlights of the event on page 2

A pictorial highlight of the GE Conference



Malawi leader, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus Chakwera officially opening the conference



Her Excellency, Dr. Joyce Banda, chairperson of the conference, delivering the welcoming remarks



The Speaker of Malawi National Assembly, Right Honourable Catherine Gotani Hara (3rd from right) with some of the Malawi women leaders at the conference



Participants during the conference



Her Excellency Ellen Sirleaf Johnson delivering her key note address at the conference



High-table delegates during the conference

ActionAid Malawi Executive Director in projects familiarization exercise



Ms. Kuwali interacting with some of the project beneficiaries in Mchinji Local Rights Programme

Newly ActionAid Malawi (AAM) Executive Director, Ms. Pamela Kuwali, had an engaging month as she toured some of the AAM's interventions under Mchinji Local Rights Programmes (LRP).

Among the engagements, Kuwali gave a motivational talk to 42-member young women reflection cycle facilitators attending a power analysis training. She challenged the trainees to set ambitious goals and work on achieving them for the betterment of their lives.

Thereafter, Kuwali interacted with young women vocational skills training graduates who are now plying their welding business to support themselves economically. The Executive Director also visited Jekemu Village, the LRP hub of resilience that is also engaged in the goat pass-on scheme to boost its household income.

Kuwali wound up her Mchinji LRP tour with a visit to Kasuza Primary School where, a school-block constructed by ActionAid in 2019, is benefitting 120 learners.



Some of the Mchinji Youth ActionAid and partners are working with



A participant attending the power analysis training explaining how they are getting empowered

Social Accountability Project in Focus

On 21st April, 2022, ActionAid Malawi's Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance project brought together staff and partners for an "Outcome Harvesting" workshop in Mponela, Dowa.

The workshop aimed to build the capacity of participants in designing the harvest, reviewing documentation, drafting outcomes, analysing and interpreting the findings during the implementation of the project and beyond.

Since July 2019, ActionAid has been implementing the second phase of the multi-country PSA consortium project focusing on Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa. The first phase of the project was implemented from April 2016 to March 2019, following a preparation phase from August 2015 to March 2016.

In Malawi, ActionAid is implementing the project with partners, namely, Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN), NASFAM, Coalition of Women Farmers (COWFA), Tiphedzane Community Support Organization (TICOSO), Mudziwathu Community Radio and Media

This was followed by a 'learning platform on social accountability' workshop that brought together Governance and Social Accountability stakeholders in the country. The stakeholders bemoaned the impact of corruption on the delivery of gender-responsive public services, saying the vice is denying girls and young women right to quality services.

Some of the key participants at the meeting included officials from the Parliament, Ministry of Finance, Local Government, Office of the Ombudsman, Malawi Health Equity Network, Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency, Nasfam and Platform of Investigative Journalism.

On 25th April, 2022, the project held an outreach activity in Mchinji where the project in partnership with Gomani and Mtanga Reflection Action Circles of Traditional Authority Zulu, held an interface meeting to discuss issues on delivery of health services in the area.



Some of the participants during the outcome harvest workshop

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Governance delegates at the learning platform workshop in Mponela, Dowa

Social Accountability Project in Focus



Gomani and Mtanga Reflection Action Circles of Traditional Authority Zulu, held an interface meeting



Some of the Participants reviewing the project in Lilongwe

Wrapping the project engagement in the country was three-day Annual Review Workshop in Lilongwe.

At the official opening of the workshop, ActionAid Malawi Executive Director, Pamela Kuwali, hailed the project saying that it has made a lot of strides both at district and national levels in Malawi.

“Among other things, the project supported the establishment of a parliamentary budget office in Malawi; supported the media in investigative journalism which has influenced a number of corrective actions at all levels; supported young people and smallholder farmers to effectively monitor the delivery of gender responsive public services in Malawi,” she said.

The workshop provided a platform to among others, review performance against its set deliverables in Year 3 (July, 2021 to date), review its progress against the national and regional level advocacy strategies on the key regional policy issues such as agricultural services for smallholder farmers and HIV and sexual reproductive health services for adolescents and young people.

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The workshop also provided a platform for the delegates to brainstorm and develop project operational plans for Year 4 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023) and sustainability plans for existing countries such as Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

The workshop brought together players in the implementation of the project. They included: ActionAid Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania, and implementing agencies in these countries.

YOUTH POWER!

ActionAid supports Malawi young women's participation at Ghana Conference



Carried the Malawi flag: Young urban women who attended the conference in Accra, Ghana

Mid April, ActionAid supported young urban women from Feminist Macro-Economics Alliance Malawi (FEAM) to attend a Global Young Urban Women Conference in Accra, Ghana. The conference happened between 12th and 13th April, 2022.

The event provided an opportunity for young women from Malawi to participate in the global conversation around important issues of macro-economic policies and gender responsive public service delivery.

The workshops also facilitated information and knowledge sharing on lived realities of young women and to help them build a collective approach in mapping feminist alternatives for collective action.

Feminist Macro-Economic Alliance Malawi is a solidarity movement comprising ActionAid Malawi, NGO-GCN, Malawi Human Rights Resources Centre, ForEquality and Activista Network.

Government hails Roger Federer Foundation for investing in children

The Malawi Government has commended the Roger Federer Foundation (RFF) for its support towards early learning years of children in the country. Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Honourable Dr. Patricia Kaliati made the remarks on Tuesday, 26th April, during the RFF's official handover of early learning kiosk to Malawi Government.

The kiosk package included 3, 000 tablets, 3, 000 solar kits and 3, 000 batteries which will be used by the mentors under the RFF-supported School Readiness Initiative (SRI) which is being implemented by the Malawi Government, ActionAid Malawi, Livingstonia Synod and Association of Early Childhood Development.

Kaliati said SRI will help strengthen the Government of Malawi's capacity to fulfill its obligation in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goal Agenda 4.2.

Said Kaliati: "Investing in early learning years also have long-term benefits of reducing early marriages and teenage pregnancies as most learners, especially those in rural areas, will have developed a spirit of concentrating on education."

On his part, RFF's Roger Federer said children in Malawi deserve quality pre-school education as one way of investing in a long-term development of the country.

During the Foundation's visit to Malawi, Roger Federer also interacted with learners, caregivers and community leaders at Mutu Community based Childcare Centre in Lilongwe.

The SRI is running from 2020 to 2026. The program is a successor to another RFF-funded Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Initiative which was successfully implemented from 2011 to 2021.



Federer (Left) handing over the learning kiosk to Honorable Kaliati

"Investing in early learning years also have long-term benefits of reducing early marriages and teenage pregnancies as most learners, especially those in rural areas, will have developed a spirit of concentrating on education," said Kaliati.



Federer winding up his interaction at Mutu CBC in Lilongwe

Sigh of relief for Lignet Nakhozo and others as ActionAid Malawi provides support to disaster survivors



Nakhozo could not stop smiling after receiving cash support from ActionAid Malawi

Relief was a prevalent emotion for Lignet Nakhozo and 199 other families who, on 16th April, 2022, received K50 000 each from ActionAid Malawi as part of the support towards the disaster response in Traditional Authority Nkhulambe in Phalombe District.

“I know I will not harvest anything this season since the floods washed away all my crops. But I am grateful to ActionAid Malawi and its local partners for this support. I will use this money to buy food and other necessities for my two grandchildren,” said the 73-year-old widow.

ActionAid Malawi southern cluster manager, Landani Masingati, said the organisation will engage various stakeholders to mobilise more resources to support the families with resilience interventions so that they can rebuild lives.

While commending ActionAid Malawi for the support, Phalombe District Council chairperson, Benard Komwa, appealed for more support from other stakeholders, saying there are more households in need of support across the district following the recent disasters that hit most parts of southern Malawi early this year.



Nakhozo receiving cash from Komwa

ActionAid Malawi's mainstream media coverage in pictures



April 27, 2022 Steria Manda-Nyasa Times
1 Comment

The Roger Federer Foundation has 3,000 early learning kiosks to the Malawi Government for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) mentors at DAPP Teacher Training College, Dowa district.

The donation has been made through ActionAid Malawi, Association of ECD in

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#ZBSNews

Phalombe District Council has urged survivors of Tropical Cyclone Ana and Gombe induced floods that are receiving cash transfers to consider buying maize to cushion effects of hunger.

Chairperson for Phalombe District Council, Bernard Komwa, says most survivors lost crops to floods and buying maize with the little government and players in the humanitarian sector are providing is vital.

He spoke this today at Traditional Authority's Nazombe Headquarters during a once off cash transfer by Action Aid Malawi to 200 survivors.

Each survivor has received K50,000. 08:58 ✓



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