

**act:onaid**



# Newsletter

October 2023

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# ActionAid and partners take Climate Justice campaign to Dedza and Mchinji

After successfully taking the climate justice campaign dubbed “Fund Our Future” to Nsanje and Mzimba, ActionAid Malawi and partners in October, 2023 took the campaign to Mchinji and Dedza Local Rights Programmes. The district campaign launch was marked by a number of activities including radio programmes, road shows, agroecology showcasing, and speeches from key delegates committing to the campaign.

Smallholder farmers and local leaders in both Mchinji and Dedza have since asked the Malawi government to start investing in agroecology including production of organic manure as an exit strategy from the "unsustainable and soil-harming" Affordable Input Program.

"As young women farmers, we have already started cultivating our crops using organic fertilizer following the training we received from KACODO with support from ActionAid Malawi. We, however, call upon the district council to upscale the training so that it benefits more farmers in Mchinji. We want to graduate from inorganic fertilizer subsidies to agroecology to protect our soil from further destruction." Eneless Hudson, young farmer in Mchinji

Linda Kabanda, Director for Mchinji based Kapiri Community Development Organization called upon development partners and financial institutions should start providing more grants (and not loans) to countries on the frontlines of climate crisis.

On their part, Senior Chief Dambe and Mchinji District Council Environmental Officer, Chrispin Soko promised to work with smallholder farmers in the district in upscaling the agroecology.



Handing over of the Finance Flows report to Mchinji District Council to Mchinji District

# ActionAid Malawi spearheads economic justice campaign at the IMF and World Bank annual meetings

After almost 50 years since the IMF and World Bank annual meetings took place in Africa, the momentous meeting returned to the continent, particularly Morocco, under the theme: "Global Action. Global Impact."

For social justices organisations like ActionAid, the meeting presented an opportunity to call upon IMF and World Bank to re-think the colonial nature of the institutions and abandon the push for austerity which has evidently failed to deliver, with mounting evidence that it has stifled economic growth and development across Africa.

Representing ActionAid Malawi at the meetings, the organisation's Policy Coordinator, Tusayiwe Sikwese, called upon the two multilateral institutions to abandon austerity measures being prescribed to poor countries as a conditionality for support.

"Austerity measures have negative impacts on the countries in the global south, especially for women and girls' rights," she said.



Activists during the IMF and World Bank meetings

# Championing child education during Joint Sector Review Meeting; IDGC

In the month, ActionAid Malawi and partners participated at the Joint Sector Review Meeting organised by the Ministry of Education.

The event was organised under the theme: "Transforming Education: Investing in Foundation Learning and Skills Development for a Wealthy, Self-Reliant and Resilient Nation". ActionAid Malawi participated through the School Readiness Initiative project, Dedza and Mchinji Local Rights Programmes. The organisation among others showcased its interventions in areas of early learning, girl child education, vocational training and advocacy on gender responsive public services in the education sector.

In the same month, the organisation joined the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare in commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child under the theme: "My Voice, Our Equal Future". ActionAid Malawi participated through its local partners drawn from Kapiri Community Development Organization in Mchinji and Kasumbu Women Forum in Dedza. The event was graced by 2nd Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable, Aisha Mambo Adams.



Girls during the IDGC

## 75 community members acquire skills in data collection

A total of 75 community members in October acquired knowledge and skills in Management Information Systems (MIS) at a training workshop organized by ActionAid Malawi.

Drawn from five project impact districts of Dedza, Salima, Ntcheu, Neno and Mwanza, participants were trained in mobile data collection using KoBo Toolbox. KoBo Toolbox is a tool for mobile data collection in the field through the use of mobile phones or tablets.

The training was part of FARMSE-supported Tipindule project aimed at improving access to and use of affordable and sustainable financial services for rural households and micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The project is targeting a total of 37,500 beneficiaries (18,000 women; 4,500 female youth; 3,000 male youth and 12,000 men) in 5 districts by 2025.



Communities who attended the data collection training

# Empowering Communities in accessing justice

What a month for our local partner, Chikulamayembe Women Forum (CWF) which has won \$1000 (Over One Million Kwacha) in Grassroots Innovator Challenge sponsored by Barefoot law on access to Justice.

The Rumphu-based organisation has been recognized for its significant contribution to access to justice for women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of injustice including gender-based violence in the area of Chikulamayembe and beyond.

The award ceremony took place on 27th October at Sun Bird Capital in Lilongwe and was graced by Malawi Human Rights Commissioner Ms Scader Louis.

Here is the award-winning work by Chikulamayembe Women Forum.



Chikulamayembe women forum carrying the cheque

# Agroecology: A Sustainable Way of Life

Carolyn Zigwetsa, a member of Kasumbu women Forum in Dedza, a successful beneficiary of Agroecological farming. She explains how difficult and costly her farming life was before she embraced agroecology

"Before agroecology, farming was a constant struggle," she said. "The soil was depleted, the rains were unpredictable, and the pests were relentless. We barely had enough to eat, and we couldn't afford to send our children to school."

However, after acquiring knowledge and skills in agroecology from Kasumbu Women Forum, a partner to ActionAid Malawi, her livelihood started changing for the better. She attended training sessions and began to implement agroecological practices on her farm. Agroecology is a holistic approach to farming that focuses on building healthy soil and ecosystems.

"The difference was incredible," she says. "The soil started to come back to life, the yields increased, and the pests were less of a problem. We now have enough food to feed our family and sell some at the market. We've also been able to send our children to school and invest in our farm."

Zigwetsa's story is one of hope and resilience. She is a living example of how agroecology can help farmers overcome the challenges of climate change and build a better future for themselves and their families.



Carolyn Zigwetsa in her green vegetable field

# Hope for youth as policy is launched

The long awaited National youth policy (2023-2028) was finally officially launched by the State President, His Excellency Dr Lazarus Chakwera, under the theme "Harnessing the Youth Potential towards the Realisation of Malawi 2063 Agenda".

The launch, which took place on 31st October at BICC, signifies a commitment to channeling the energy and creativity of Malawi's youth towards sustainable development. The policy outlines strategies for education, employment, and civic engagement, aiming to empower young people as active contributors to the nation's long-term goals.

ActionAid Malawi participated at the launch through a pavillion that featured its partners namely, Kasumbu Development Organisation (KADO), Kapiri Development Organisation (KACODO) and the youth from the Gloabal Plartform Malawi



Stakeholders appreciating an ActionAid pavillion at the launch.



# STAFF FOCUS: Catherine Chiwaya



Meet Catherine Chiwaya, our Partnership and Compliance Officer. Catherine joined ActionAid Malawi in September, 2023. The Partnership and Compliance role ensures that ActionAid Malawi complies with all relevant laws, regulations, and internal policies by safeguarding the organization's integrity and adherence to regulatory requirements. Some of the position's key responsibilities include:

**Partnership development:** Working closely with partners to foster strong, mutually beneficial relationships that align with the organization's values and goals.

**Policy development:** Playing a pivotal role in developing and updating compliance policies and procedures to reflect the current laws and regulations.

**Compliance oversight:** Overseeing compliance efforts, ensuring that the organization consistently adheres to all relevant laws, regulations, and internal policies and standards helping in maintaining the organization's integrity and reputation.

**Reporting and documentation:** Maintaining thorough records to demonstrate organization's commitment to compliance laws and regulations.

**Risk Mitigation:** Assessing potential risks associated with partnerships and non-compliance, developing strategies to mitigate these risks effectively.

# ActionAid Malawi bids farewell to its Executive Director

On 24th October, 2023 ActionAid Malawi management and staff bade farewell to its Executive Director who has been with the institution for one and a half years. The farewell took place at the office's board room. Here are the pictorial highlights of the farewell:



# ACTIONAID MALAWI SOCIAL



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT!

**Happy Birthday Wongani Mugaba,  
born on 23rd October**

We pray that God grants you all your desires as you continue to inspire ActionAid Malawi through your inclusive and supportive leadership.



## WELCOME OUR NEW COUPLE

**Introducing the family of  
Mr and Mrs Katsukunya**

We congratulate our staff member, Hastings Katsukunya, on wedding his love, Ruth, at a colorful ceremony that took place on 7th October.



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FRONT COVER:  
 Carolyn Zigwetsa  
 Kasumbu Women  
 Forum

PHOTO:  
 Ekari Faria

BACK IMAGE:  
 International Day  
 of Girl Child

PHOTO:  
 Ekari Faria

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