

Farmers' Clubs in Dowa changing lives



Some five years ago, the women of Dowa never imagined they would learn a thing like conservation agriculture nor livestock farming nor milk production. Theirs was a normal life like all other women living in the rural areas of Malawi; carry out house chores, take care of the children, attend to the garden and depend on their husbands to provide their needs.

And then came Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Malawi with the DAPP Dowa Women Farmers' Clubs project to work with them. And, for the last five years, there has been a great overhaul in their lives.

Regina Gwetsele of Tikondane Club recalls how she started getting involved in the Farmers' Clubs project activities. "I started working with them [DAPP Malawi] the very moment they came to this area [in 2013]. At first it was not easy for people to understand. Some actually thought we were going to rebel against our husbands," reminisces Gwetsele.

Fortunately, DAPP which implements other projects within education & vocational training, food security, community develop-

ment, and health in other districts in the country strongly encourages men to support and work closely with the women.

There are two cooperatives in Dowa that have their genesis stemming from DAPP's support – both with a membership of over 170 paid up members each. The cooperatives have ongoing contracts with Moni Oil and Sunseed Oil Company.

DAPP to start two new Child Aid Projects



Community development has been a long-standing priority of DAPP Malawi, since 1995 DAPP has been utilizing the "Child Aid" integrated model which was developed to build capacity in communities to reduce poverty and give families the best conditions in which to raise their children. This is accomplished through the implementation of activities within child care and early childhood development, health, education, and economic development.

DAPP will start implementing two new Child Aid projects in Zomba and Machinga districts in February 2017. The projects will work in 3 T/As with 9,900 households in sanitation and hygiene, approximately 60,000 people in the two districts.



DI Program transforming rural pre-schools



The Development Instructor (DI) program which is carried out by DAPP has several objectives, one of which is to open up the possibility for everyone to contribute to development on the ground of Solidary Humanism. This program is beneficial for the DAPP Malawi projects as development is about creating visions and showing possible paths to reach out to the poor.



The DIs that are working in the DAPP projects have contributed to increase in food diversification for communities through the establishment of vegetable gardens; provided pre-schools with a variety of teaching and learning resources; new teaching methods; improved infrastructure

for preschools in many communities and; regular training sessions for pre-school teachers.

Since inception of the program, the DIs have reached out to many people in both rural and peri – urban areas where DAPP implements various projects. The DIs continue to demonstrate that Fighting with the Poor is not just about teaching or instructing others but that it is when they have to win over obstacles and advance together with communities.



Below are examples of the initiatives by DIs in communities around Chilangoma, Amalika, Dowa and Mzimba Teacher Training Colleges from July to January 2017:

- ✓ 8 new pre-schools constructed
- ✓ 10 pre-schools rehabilitated
- ✓ 55 pre-school teachers attending quarterly trainings facilitated by DIs
- ✓ 15 vegetable gardens established
- ✓ 7 primary schools in Mzimba practicing permaculture
- ✓ Approximately 3,000 youth, community members and pre-school children reached by DIs
- ✓ 650 medicinal trees planted in 12 primary schools