

## Scaling Up TB - HIV Interventions



DAPP is scaling up TB – HIV interventions in Thyolo using the systematic door to door approach. The project raises awareness of TB and HIV; identifies HIV positive and TB affected people; establishes sputum collection points and; links patients to treatment thus reducing deaths, containing onward infection through TB contact tracing and the development of drug resistance.

During a recent field visit organised by the project, Makungwa Health Centre Senior Medical Assistant Thom Kapinza Soko hailed DAPP for working closely with government to reduce TB, HIV and AIDS related deaths through the TB - HIV project. The DAPP project has established a strong link between the people and the existing health services. This has further created an increased demand on the health centre to cope with the increasing number of people who seek treatment and this saves more lives. Through the trios which are formed comprising of the patient and two relatives, drug adherence has been enhanced unlike in the past where the patients mostly had the sole role to ensure they took their medication correctly.

“As a hospital we want to thank DAPP Community Health Workers and Volunteers who are helping us identify presumed cases in the villages and refer them to the hospitals. We also want to commend the nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations conducted in the communities in order to teach people about the importance of healthy food. The patients and their families are able to prepare a variety of healthy meals using food items from the six food groups. This has further enabled the patients to boost their nutrition and assisted in drug adherence. Previously, some patients used to report an increased appetite when taking the TB medication and that it became difficult to adhere to treatment especially when they had no food,” said Soko.

The project aligns with the World Health Organisation’s ENGAGE-TB approach to integrate community-based TB and HIV - TB prevention, care and control activities. The activities are based on a new paradigm for integrating HIV and TB at the grassroots through a combination of activities that tackle stigma and discrimination, strengthen clinical services, build family and community capacity to support the patients and improve the nutrition status of HIV and TB patients.





## DAPP donates clothes to flood victims



Following the unprecedented flooding disaster which occurred on 10th February 2017 and left hundreds of people living in Mtandire homeless, DAPP Malawi and Forum for African Women Educationalists-Malawi chapter (FAWEMA) made a joint trip to Mtandire to present clothes and teaching and learning materials in response to a call made by the Education Cluster which is coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to which the two institutions belong as key partners in the country's education sector.

The clothes donation made by DAPP Malawi valued at K795,000.00 was distributed among 331 children and 236 adults who sought refuge at Kamkodola Primary School after their houses collapsed. DAPP also donated clothes to 50 girls studying at Malowa Community Day Secondary School in the area of Group Village Headman Ngwena in Salima district. These girls were displaced when heavy rains damaged their rented hostel last month.

Education Cluster Lead Person - Virginia Kachigunda who is also Deputy Director for the Department of School Health, Nutrition,

HIV and AIDS in the Ministry of Education, hailed the two institutions for their support and expressed hope that these donations will assist in normalizing the victims' lives.

“This will make a big difference because as you are aware, most of the learners are not coming to school because their teaching and learning materials and; clothes were washed away. I am hopeful that they will start coming back to school and resume learning. As government, we are striving to ensure that children's continued learning is supported when such disasters occur,” said Kachigunda.



*Education Cluster Lead presenting clothes to a pupil*



*FAWEMA's official handing over learning material*