

DOWA TTC IN “BUILDING WEEK” ACTION



Development Aid from People to People’s Dowa Teachers’ Training College embarked on a Building Week action from 19 to 23 July 2017. Cleaning actions are done by DAPP staff members together with the student-teachers. This is one of the ways through which student-teachers, who are trained to teach in rural areas, acquire mobilization skills to engage their fellow teachers, their learners and surrounding community members to play role in building and maintaining their school environments. DAPP believes in training teachers who do not keep their hands in the pockets but should become change agents in rural communities by playing a leading role in community development activities.

The exercise equips the student-teachers with technical skills in painting, carpentry, brick laying, welding and plumbing which become useful when they go to work in the rural areas since they use the skills in maintaining their schools.

Among the tasks carried out in the week were; digging of a water harvesting pit, making water ways, terraces, slashing of grass and picking litter around the college environment, maintaining of leaking toilets, installation of watering pipes in the vegetable gardens and building as well as plastering of the college’s sign post.

Development Instructors Facilitate Change

Development Instructors (DIs) are international volunteers who work to uplift the living standards of people in the rural areas in sectors of agriculture, health, education, and community development.

A new team of DIs have been working in DAPP projects from January to June 2017 and have brought numerous changes to disadvantaged and less privileged children who stay in the rural villages.

They facilitated establishment and renovating of Early Childhood Development centres, and youth clubs where youth are taught different skills like



Recommendations have been received from local traditional leaders that participation of DIs should be encouraged and upgraded to reach many communities.

In communities, Development Instructors facilitated the adoption of climate adaptive practices which include construction of firewood saving stoves, planting trees and practicing conservation farming. They were also in the fore-front in ensuring that the communities they worked in are food secure by teaching them how to plant crops that are adaptable to climate change and establishment of backyard gardens.

10 Youth Trained in Macadamia Nuts Production

DAPP Malawi through the Macadamia Value Chain Enhancement project has trained 10 youth, five from Thyolo and five from Mzimba districts, in Agriculture Production in order for them to work as Farming instructors for Macadamia nuts farmers.

The training that included both theory and practice took place at DAPP Mikologwe Vocational School (MVS) with involvement of SABLE Farming Company that produces macadamia tree seedlings.



The youth were selected from within the project's target areas in the two districts and this is expected to continue throughout the project's life span in order to establish knowledge about Macadamia nuts production among the farmers and after the project has phased out.

The idea of the project is to connect smallholder farmers and macadamia nuts producers to the macadamia nuts value chain in order to improve each link of the chain and increase the quantity of macadamia nuts production and processing in Malawi. Additionally, the project also seeks to supply good quality nuts that meet the national and international Food Laws.

The Macadamia Value Chain Enhancement project is expected to improve the annual income of small holders and create jobs in macadamia nuts production and processing. The training of the youth in agriculture production and in particular macadamia nuts production will help sustain the project beyond its life cycle.

Some of the Children I taught are in Form Three!



Elizabeth Nkasa is a volunteering Care Giver at Chisomo Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) in Blantyre rural district. She has been helping at the ECDC since 2007 when the ECDC was being established. She comes from Kapotera village in Traditional Authority Kuntaja in Blantyre district. Together with three other volunteering Care Givers at the ECDC, their roles are to teach children between the ages of 4 and 6 who come from villages around the centre in readiness for primary schools. Elizabeth and her colleagues do receive in-service training from DAPP Chilangoma Teachers' Training College. The in-service trainings equip care givers with knowledge and skills on how to deliver the lessons, lesson planning and enable experience sharing among care givers from different ECDCs. There are 69 children that have been enrolled at Chisomo Early Childhood Development Centre.

This is good for them (children) because there is a good transition from pre-schools to primary schools and they easily adapt to the learning environments. Children that attend ECD centres do perform well when they go to primary school. I am proud to be helping at this centre because we do this for our own community and children. One of the things I am particularly happy about is to see some of the children that I taught who are now in form three in secondary schools!