

SKILLS TRAINING ALLEVIATING POVERTY AMONG VULNERABLE GIRLS

DAPP Malawi embarked on a tailoring program in 2016 to empower young and vulnerable women in rural areas with technical skills. The trainings take place in the four DAPP Teachers Training Colleges (TTCs) which are Chilangoma in Blantyre, Amalika in Thyolo, Dowa in Dowa and Mzimba in Mzimba districts with funding from Sympany of Netherlands. Each colleges enrolls 30 students at a time who are equipped with tailoring and entrepreneurial skills. The program targets young women aged between 18 and 24 years from rural areas around the TTCs. The students are given sewing machines as a starter pack for businesses upon completion of the course.



In December 2017, the Dowa TTC satellite students held an open day to showcase what they have learnt and materials they are producing.

The function was graced by the National Educational Technical Program Manager from World Vision Florence Pwere who commended DAPP for being in the forefront in implementing the sustainable development goals as well as government policies.

“You are really doing a tremendous job in alleviating poverty through lasting solutions that help young vulnerable girls by creating jobs and raising their standard of living” she said.

One of the beneficiaries that completed her training earlier in 2017 is Danny Dzonzi from Kagwa Msabola village, T/A Mkukula in Dowa district. She is a 4th born in a family of 10 and the only child with a vocational skills certificate.



Danny was trained at Dowa TTC centre during the first intake 2016. When she completed her course she had no funds to startup a business. However, due to her entrepreneurship skills which she acquired during the tailoring training she established a vegetable garden to raise funds for purchasing of her own sewing machine and other materials.

“At DAPP we were taught not to keep our hands in the pockets hence I had to grow vegetables and the profits were enough to buy a Singer sewing machine which I did. With the machine, I have managed to buy two goats. I can no longer sleep on an empty stomach as I used to. I am able to make enough money and pay school fees for some of my siblings. People from my village are now able to offer me tenders to sew clothes for them,” she explained.

The tailoring students at Dowa TTC have so far made petticoats, baby dresses, pencil skirt, short sleeve shirts, short trousers, and caftans. In January 2018, the second intake students will be finalizing the training with making national wears and learning entrepreneurship as a topic.



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MACHINGA AND ZOMBA DISTRICT OFFICIALS VISIT DAPP PROJECT

The District Coordinating Committee members for Machinga and Zomba districts visited DAPP Malawi's Child Aid project to appreciate what the project is doing in their two districts. Child Aid project officers organized the exercise in order to present to district officials the achievements that the project has made.

The activity took place from 19 to 21 December 2017 and was attended by officials from the following departments; District Environmental Health Office, District Water Development Office, District Social Welfare Office, District Forestry Office, District Agriculture Development Office, School Health and Nutrition, Director of Planning and Development, WASH and Community Development Office.



DAPP partners from different organisations and projects in the two districts also took part in the exercise and these included; Red Cross Society, Njira Project, Save the Children ASPIRE, Heart to Heart, Action Aid, Amref and ONSE Project.

The District Environmental Health Officer (DEHO) for Machinga expressed satisfaction with the project activities after observing that communities are practicing hygiene and sanitation. He said the project's success was evident with children having basic information about the importance of using toilets and washing hands.

The DEHO said he will invite the National Open Defecation Free Task Force to come and verify Traditional Authority Liwonde for an Open Defecation Free (ODF) status as soon as the remaining villages are verified to be ODF.

Led by the Village Action Group Committee members, the visiting officials randomly sampled 10 households in 9 villages to see if they had sanitary facilities. The facilities include; toilets with drop hole covers, tippy taps, dishracks, firewood saving stoves, rubbish pits and clothes hanging lines

To spice up the visits, community members organised plays, poems and traditional dances which were informative as well as entertaining. DAPP Malawi implemented the 12-month Child Aid project in Machinga and Zomba district since January 2017.

400 PRIMARY SCHOOLS HOLD OPEN DAYS



A network of DAPP Malawi graduated teachers who are working in Thyolo and Lilongwe districts carried out Open Days in the week of 11 to 15 December with an aim of highlighting the importance of keeping girls in school and eating nutritious foods.

In Thyolo, learners held a match and carried posters and placards displaying messages that promote girls education while in Lilongwe, learners from Kanjila primary school in Zombwe zone together with their teachers had a vegetable harvest from their school garden which was used for cooking demonstration. Community members were also involved and together they held cooking demonstrations to show case different methods of preparing food and their nutrition values.

The program also bought seedlings to be planted in the 2017 growing season around their schools.