

DEVELOPMENT AID FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

HOPE IN SCHOOLS PROJECT FOR INFORMED AGYW

Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Malawi in partnership with the National AIDS Commission (NAC) is implementing a Hope in Schools project called Creating Space for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) to Access Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Services. It aims at promoting adolescent girls and young women to be assertive and understand their rights when making reproductive health related decisions.



The project runs for 12 months and is targeting 600 AGYW, as direct beneficiaries, in 10 tertiary education institutions and 30 private secondary schools and 6000 indirect beneficiaries in Mulanje and Thyolo districts.

On 24th January 2018, DAPP Malawi and NAC jointly organised an Open Day in Thyolo district with an aim of encouraging youth to patronize health services.

The event took place at Ligowe private secondary school and was graced by the District Health Officer for Thyolo Dr Arnold Jumbe. Dr Jumbe led the touring of the exhibitions where DAPP showcased different activities which have been carried out in the project and other projects being implemented in the district.

Among the key personnel that attended the function were the DAPP Malawi Country Director Lisbeth Thomsen, NAC Programs Manager Chimwemwe Mablekis and the Eastern Division Education Director Chris Sogolani.

In her speech, the DAPP Malawi's Country Director encouraged both young women and girls to continue



taking active roles in the project together with the parents, teachers, head teachers and matrons who supporting them.

“We would like to see a new generation of young girls and women making informed choices about their life and completing their education even going further than secondary and tertiary education, and become influential young people where ever they go – and therefore contribute to the development of Malawi and sustaining their life and the life of their families,” she emphasized.

The Programs Manager NAC called on youth to utilize the Youth Friendly health services and demand information from authorities in order to reduce new infections among the group.

DAPP PROJECTS IN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST CHOLERA

DAPP Malawi projects are engaging in awareness campaigns to sensitize people of ways in which they can prevent cholera outbreaks in their communities. This comes following the cholera outbreak that has affected some districts in the country.

The projects which are taking part in this exercise include; Let Children Stay in School project, Child Aid project in Zomba and Machinga districts, Amalika Teachers Training College, Chiradzulu Farmers Club, Mzimba Macadamia nuts Farmers' club and the network of DAPP graduated teachers also known as 400 Primary Schools.

The campaign messages include the signs and symptoms of cholera, preventative measures in particular how to wash hands in order to avoid cholera infection.

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The Let Children Stay in School project engaged in distribution of informative flyers in 50 primary schools around Lilongwe district. This came following the a meeting that took place on the 24th of January in Lilongwe to map the way forward and come up with quick actions towards the outbreak.

DAPP through the Let Children Stay in School (LCSS) project was tasked by the District Health Office (DHO) to distribute flyers in primary schools and assess the hygiene and sanitation in the schools by ensuring that schools have adequate hand washing facilities.



The Project Coordinator for DAPP LCSS Patrick Maele said they distributed 5000 flyers in 50 schools and each school received 100 flyers which have information on cholera prevention techniques.

“We started the distribution of flyers yesterday and the targets were 50 primary schools. The DHO advised that the flyers must be distributed in the areas where many cases of cholera are coming from and which are Kauma, Area 23, Area 24, Chinsapo, Area 36 and Mchitanjiru,” said Maele.

“It was observed that schools are putting in place good hygiene measures to ensure the practice among the learners while some schools have been encouraged to install handwashing facilities in food selling points in order to promote hygiene,” he added.

UNESCO VISITS LET CHILDREN STAY IN SCHOOL PROJECT

The Deputy Chief Secretary for UNESCO in Malawi David Mulera visited Chinkhandwe Primary School which is in Chimutu zone in Lilongwe urban district on 11 January. The aim of the visit was to appreciate how the Let Children Stay in School (LCSS) project which DAPP Malawi is implementing has improved school attendance for lower class learners, community involvement in school activities and how teachers are -



using the knowledge from the in-service trainings that the project offers.

Let Children Stay in School project is working in 114 primary schools in six districts; Chitipa, Rumphi, Ntchisi, Lilongwe, Machinga and Nsanje.

with an aim of creating school environments that will enable lower class learners to remain in school. Activities in the project include providing nutritious meals to learners, constructing playgrounds for the learners, ensuring sanitation and hygiene through provision of handwashing facilities and training the in-service teachers in refresher courses.

Speaking after visiting the school, Deputy Chief Secretary for UNESCO appreciated the roles which the teachers together, community members and the Headteacher are doing in supporting the project activities.



The Headteacher for the school Raphael January expressed gratitude towards DAPP for the support in training teachers to produce teaching and learning materials using locally available resources, improved sanitation and hygiene at the school as well as the playgrounds which have been constructed at the school. He also added that the over the past 7 years the school enrollment has almost doubled from 2437 to 4780.