LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND: EDUCATION KEY IN ACHIEVING THE 2030 UN SDG

DAPP Malawi together with the Humana People to People (HPP) joined the rest of the world in marking International Education Day commemorated annually on 24 January.

The day is commemorated to honour education and its critical importance to human well-being and sustainable development. The theme for this year was ‘Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace’.

The 2020 celebration positions education and learning as humanity’s greatest transformative tool, thus a fundamental universal right and a public good.

Education is an enabler of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As such, drawing attention to “inclusive and equitable education” is integral in accelerating progress to meet the 17 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education is at the heart of both personal and community developments. Its purpose is to help develop and fully realize and embrace talent and creative potential, including taking responsibility for life and positively contributing to society.

Globally, the UN estimates that 69 million new teachers are required to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030.

For more than 17 years now, DAPP Malawi has been actively working to promote access to education through training of primary school teachers for rural Malawi government primary schools.

Engaging the HPP teacher training model, this initiative was first implemented in Maputo, Mozambique in 1993. The concept has since grown and is now being taught in 53 colleges operated by members of HPP in Angola, Congo DR, Guinea Bissau, India, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

Through these colleges, 42,000 primary school teachers have been trained. The majority of teachers work in remote rural communities, positively impacting on the learning outcomes of millions of children.

Close to 3,000 primary school teachers have graduated from DAPP Malawi’s four Teacher Training Colleges of Chilangoma in Blantyre, Amalika in Thyolo, Dowa in Dowa and Mzimba in Mzimba district.

MAKING AN AGRICULTURE LEARNING POINT
In 2019 DAPP Malawi introduced a Tourism and Hospitality training program targeting youth in Malawi. The course is being hosted at DAPP Chilangoma Teacher Training College in Blantyre rural district, as one way of contributing to the improvement of tourism and hospitality sector in Malawi.

The training is being supported by the Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism to through Humana People to People Italia.

The six-month training commenced in October 2019 and 21 students were enrolled; 17 females and 4 males. Currently undergoing industrial trials in five tourism and hospitality centres; Annie's Lodge, Rigra Lodge, Blantyre Sports Club, Delight Lodge and Top Lodge, where they are able to put into practice their classroom knowledge and skills at the same time acquiring professional discipline.

Gungulu primary school learners were led by their teachers to establish an agriculture learning point in their school from where the school will be using for practical lessons in their agriculture subjects.

Justin Kamiza, a DAPP graduated teacher working at the school said this is a garden that will be a learning point which they could establish at a low cost with materials that are locally available.

Led by their teacher, the learners sowed maize, cucumbers seeds, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, tomatoes, and a variety of vegetables like chinese, rape and amaranthus (bonongwe).

Apart from establishing the learning point, the school has also been active in a tree planting drive. In December, the school together with community members planted over 250 trees that had been donated to the school through DAPP under the Resilience in Schools project which was supported by Humana Spain.

The network has 100 members who are currently working in 80 government primary schools. The goal of the network is to reach out to 400 primary school in Malawi.

Justin Kamiza is a member of the DAPP 400 Primary Schools network, a team of DAPP graduated teachers who voluntarily stick together to share ideas and experiences on how they can improve the environments around their schools.

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TRAINING YOUTH TO PROMOTE HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

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