

### WORLD AIDS DAY 2020: GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY!

Humana People to People joined the rest of the world in marking World AIDS Day 2020 on 1 December. The theme for 2020 was “Global solidarity, shared responsibility”. At a time when the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic, people the world over come together to show solidarity with people living with HIV and to remember lives lost to AIDS.

COVID-19 is showing once again how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as reducing inequality, upholding human rights, gender equality and social protection, and pursuing responsible economic growth.



DAPP Malawi joined the government of Malawi through the Ministry of Health in the commemoration of this day through a World AIDS Day and candlelighting memorial that took place at Mitundu primary school in Lilongwe district.

### Humana People to People’s approach in fighting HIV and AIDS

Humana People to People of which DAPP Malawi is a local member organisaion is dedicated to helping to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS including tuberculosis (TB). The fight to gain control of HIV and AIDS as well as TB builds on the people in communities organised together and in close collaboration with the public health system.

The projects focus on information sharing, community mobilisation, HIV testing, tuberculosis screening, referrals to treatment, and support for treatment adherence,

connecting staff and volunteers with communities in hard-to-reach areas and with most-at-risk populations.

Organising people at community level and building capacity to master their own development is at the core of Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) activities. The TCE model at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic began with addressing home-based care, stigma and discrimination, providing HIV prevention messages and building community-based care structures with volunteers.

### Celebrating 20 years of fighting HIV and AIDS

Since 2000, the HIV project, TCE, has reached over 20 million people across 12 countries in Africa and Asia, connecting them with the information, health services, and support to live healthy and positive lives. The guiding principle is that “Only the people can liberate themselves from AIDS the epidemic”.

The journey over the years has seen the TCE programme implementing various innovative approaches such as pioneering HIV testing at home, building synergies with health centres to support HIV treatment for the infected, and early initiation of treatment for patients who test HIV positive.

TCE has proven to be a powerful model, helping countries move towards the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets leading to epidemic control. Currently, TCE has aligned its approach to target most-at-risk groups, people missing for HIV testing, finding people living with HIV and referring them for treatment. People are assisted to adhere to treatment and ‘lost-to-follow-up’ clients are tracked and identified so they remain under treatment, which is essential in achieving viral load suppression of HIV.





**Odetta Chimwaza - Macadamia Nuts Farmer**

Odetta Chimwaza comes from Timothy village in Traditional Authority Thomas in Thyolo district. She is one of the Farmers' Club members that are growing Macadamia Nuts in Thyolo district under the Macadamia Nuts Value Chain Enhancement project. She has planted 100 Macadamia Nuts trees which she received through the project.

She says she has learnt about intercropping in Macadamia Nuts fields with crops like legumes to ensure maximum utilization of land. Apart from intercropping, the farmers clubs were encouraged to establish Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups in order to cultivate a money saving culture.

"I know about intercropping and saving money through VSLs now. When I sell my legumes I save part of the money through the our VSL and in December 2020 I have managed to buy a cow, I can say this project has already started yielding the results and I will be able to make money for myself and my family," she explained.

The Macadamia Nuts project is in its 5th year of implementation working with 3000 farmers in Thyolo and Mzimba districts. The farmers to grow 100 tree seedlings each and sell Macadamia Nuts in the future.

**Caregivers Trained in Early Learning**

Investing in Early Years is a World Bank funded project which being implemented by the Malawi government through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare.

In December 2020, Dowa District Social Welfare Office trained 80 Caregivers under the project.

According to the District Early Childhood Development (ECD) Coordinator Mr Jonathan Bonongwe, the project has a number of components. Dowa district is training caregivers from 15 Satellite centres with a focus on training them in topics such as; child development, early learning and stimulation and nutrition component.

He said the trainings are being done in two phases which are theory and practice; which includes production of teaching and learning materials, for ensured smooth transition of learners from ECD centres into primary schools.

The DAPP College in Dowa is also involved in the training of caregivers. In the month of January, another team of 80 caregivers will also undergo training in the district DAPP also Malawi works with ECDs around its four Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) of Chilangoma, Dowa, Amalika and Mzimba. The TTCs support the caregivers with in-service trainings in the process of ensuring smooth



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