

## DEVELOPMENT AID FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

## 20 MORE GIRLS GRADUATE IN TAILORING

The DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School's Mobile Training project has completed the training of 20 Adolescent Girls and Young Women, 10 from each Salima and Dedza districts.

The four-month training run from October 2020 to January 2021.

With the goal to socio-economically empower the vulnerable and at risk adolescent girls and young women through vocational and entrepreneurial skills, the project was implemented in partnership with the Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGGA).

Speaking during the certificate presentation ceremony the Deputy Chief Commissioner for MAGGA Lucy Nkhoma said she was proud that all 20 students have completed the training and called on them to become mentors to more than 700 peers within their communities.



“Now that you have completed your basic training, you need to stand firm and shoulder the responsibility of imparting the knowledge and skills you have acquired to as many young girls as possible. You are now mentors as such you should work as servant leaders to save as many young girls from unruly behaviours from you respective communities,” she said.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner went ahead to recommend DAPP Malawi for laying out such outreach training program that targets youth in hard to reach areas of Malawi who could otherwise be at risk if left alone to escape poverty.



The Principal for DAPP Mikolongwe also thanked MAGGA for supporting the training of the adolescent girls and young women who could otherwise not become self-reliant and encouraged the new tailors to embrace modern fashion in their work.

The students received start up materials in groups of three people which include a sewing machine, roll of fabric, pair of scissors, and a charcoal iron among others that enable them to set up their tailoring business after completion of the training.

Both events were graced by representatives from the district and Traditional Leaders.

The Mobile Tailoring Centre targeted youth from Traditional Authorities Mwanza and Kachindamoto in Salima and Dedza districts respectively.

Mikolongwe Vocational School was established in 1997 to train youth in technical and entrepreneurial skills for them to become self-reliant through employment or establishments of small scale businesses thereby alleviating poverty. The Mobile Training Project has previously trained over 720 adolescent girls and young women.

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## TEACHERS IN TREE PLANTING ACTION

Teachers under the 400 Primary schools network at Mbalame primary school in Dowa have planted fruit trees around their school premises.

The tree seedlings had been donated to the school by Scope Malawi through the DAPP Dowa Teacher Training College (TTC) in the district.

Speaking on behalf of the teacher who carried out the activity Evalet Matola, a teacher at the school said the trees had been received as a donation and they are grateful for



supporting them with trees saying the school has planned to plant 400 more trees around the campus during the rainy season.

As a school we had earlier plans to plant the trees which we ask learners to bring from their home to support our forestation efforts but we have not yet done that since schools are temporarily closed due to Covid-19 but as teachers we have managed to plant 50 fruit tree seedlings that were donated to us, she explained.

Mbalame School is found in Senga education zone I Dowa district. There are 4 four DAPP graduated teachers who work at the school and are members of the 400 Primary Schools teachers' network.

We Do More Teachers also known as 400 Primary Schools

is a network of DAPP graduated teachers who voluntarily stick together to share ideas and experiences on how they can improve the environments around their schools.

## MUSHROOM PRODUCTION TRAINING PROJECT IN MCHINJI

DAPP Malawi with financial support from the GIZ has rolled out a Mushroom farming training project in Mchinji district.

Targeting to train 80 youth aged between 18 to 35 years old in Traditional Authority Mlonyeni. The project is a pilot project under the GIZ EYA project - Empowering Youth in Agribusiness (EYA!).

It will promote employment in rural areas with a particular focus on young people.

According to the Head of Grants and M & E at DAPP Malawi Chimwemwe Mponya, the project seeks to improve the income of youth through training them in the growing, processing, harvest and marketing of mushroom.

"We will provide the beneficiaries with raw materials like the mushroom spawn in coordination with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The district Director of Planning and Development for Mchinji Mr Noel Dakamau said the project is a welcome development as it will empower the youth to become economically independent while contributing to the mushroom production in the country.

