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# CHANGING LIVES

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## From the Director of Programmes

**S**eek the kingdom of God! In this different and difficult year, God is still guiding our work. We started Financial Year (FY) 2021 in World Vision Malawi through the Day of Prayer held online throughout our offices across the country.



The theme is based on John 15:12-13, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Love continues to be at the heart of our calling as we pursue Our Promise 2030. The first quarter of our financial year is always marked with busy schedules as we finalise the previous year reporting processes in a bid to be accountable to our partners and at the same time set things in motion for the new financial year.

At the same time, our impact communities are also busy preparing their fields since this is the beginning of the rainy season.

We thank God for the grace and all that has been accomplished during this quarter; we started off the journey with 33 Area Programmes complemented by 32 grants implemented across the country, through our strategy which is now aligned to Our Promise 2030. Mid way through, we were blessed to have seen the government of Malawi and the Global Fund reaffirm their trust in us. They entrusted us with USD250 Million to play a key role in fighting against Malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB in Malawi in the next three years.

We celebrate that during the quarter World Vision Malawi helped prevent over 2 million children from Malaria

through the implementation of an Indoor Residual Spray program in three districts of Mangochi, Balaka and Nkhatabay that are endemic to Malaria in Malawi.

Because we have the child at the centre of all our programs, we always strive to improve. Even in the midst of covid-19, we safely monitored the status of 95,542 children under our sponsorship programme and continued to promote Water sanitation and hygiene, education, health and nutrition counselling, household food security interventions reaching, to over 900,000 children.

All this would not have been accomplished without the commitment of our partners; the trust of the communities put in us and the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteers who were able to reach the remotest parts of the country with such services.

We will continue to serve with love in the next quarter; continue with our resource mobilisation efforts, and work even harder to reach the most vulnerable child in Malawi.

**Charles Chimombo**

# WVM to lead fight against HIV and Malaria



**World Vision will partner the Malawi government's Ministry of Health to implement interventions to fight Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS across the country. The grants, given by Global Fund, will be rolled out from January 2021 and run to 2024.**

Presiding over the launch of the grants at Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe, Malawi's Minister of Finance, Felix Mlusu, thanked the Global Fund for its sustained contribution to the Malawi health sector.

Since 2003 Malawi has accessed and utilized financial support from Global Fund worth US\$1.6 billion.

He then pledged Malawi government's support to the Ministry of Health and World Vision who will be the grant's flag carriers.

"These grants demonstrate the trust that the donor community has in our government and I appeal to all recipients to make prudent use of the resources entrusted to them", said Mlusu who was accompanied by the Minister of Health, Khumbize Kandodo.

He also said that the government priori-

tises the fight against Malaria, TB and AIDS because of their negative drain on the economy.

"Once productive citizens are rendered unproductive by these diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. These diseases are also leading causes of death in the country", said Mlusu.

He further added that beyond the three diseases, Malawi Government further acknowledges Global Fund efforts towards building resilient sustainable systems for health.

On her part, Kandodo reiterated the need for cooperation and commitment from all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the new grant.

"I am therefore calling upon all of you gathered here, to support the Ministry and World Vision in the implementation of these enormous resources trusted to the people of Malawi", she said.

Accepting the challenge and opportunity to play a key role, World Vision's Advisory Council Chair in Malawi, Lucy Kachapira thanked the Malawi government for its sustained trust in the work and stewardship of World Vision.

"Over the years, as a Christian organization working in all districts of Malawi, we have demonstrated our commitment

to end tropical diseases like Malaria and used Global Fund's resources prudently", said Kachapira before adding that the organization would utilize its years of experience in HIV and AIDS programming to work hand in hand with all partners to safeguard marginalized groups, especially young people.

Currently, World Vision is implementing an Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) programme in Mangochi, Nkhatabay and Balaka aimed at fighting Malaria. This comes on the back of recent efforts in 2018 when the organization distributed 10.8 million long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets to nearly 17 million Malawians.

Global Fund  
has invested  
US\$1.6  
billion in  
Malawi since  
2003.

# VP Preaches Mindset Change



Dr. Saulos Chilima (centre, front row), with delegates at the end of the conference

Vice President Soulos Klaus Chilima has called on religious leaders to champion mindset change as one way of fostering development in the country.

The second citizen made the call in Lilongwe when he delivered a keynote address at World Vision's Micah Challenge Malawi Church partnership.

He said religious leaders have a critical role to play in changing people's mindset on different societal issues affecting the country's development.

Chilima, who is also minister of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms, highlighted four areas that faith-based organisations should reflect on and instil in their congregant's minds as follows; unity and trust, wise stewardship, looking outward, and timely truth telling with love.

In October 2020, the Vice President organized a public lecture in Lilongwe on mindset change, challenging Malawians to abort opportunistic tendencies and their obsession with negativity.

In his remarks, Reverend Vasco Kachipapa says as faith based leaders, they have a mandate to help Malawi citizens have a prosperous life through mindset change.

"We will incorporate the mindset change message with the gospel so that we should be in line with the word of God while preaching about mindset change," says Kachipapa.

World Vision Malawi Advisory Council Chairperson, Dr. Lucy Kachapira says change is a transformative process that

cannot take a day to manifest.

She, therefore, says World Vision will continue to spread messages of change until people's views and perceptions are changed.

"This Micah Challenge Initiative was established to ensure that people's welfare and way of lives change for the better to eradicate poverty as well as end infant and maternal deaths. In short, it encompasses all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its objectives," says Kachapira.

The Micah Challenge Malawi is a national movement of aid and development agencies, churches, schools, groups and individual Christians who support the implementation and realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Dr Chilima addressing faith leaders at the conference



# First Lady tough on protecting Girls



First Lady addressing the gathering

**F**irst Lady of the Republic of Malawi, Monica Chakwera has tasked stakeholders to stand and protect the girl child by giving her equal opportunities to education to have a brighter future.

She made the appeal during the commemoration of the International Day of a Girl Child organized by World Vision International. The event was held at Mitondo Primary School in Traditional Authority (T/A) Chitekwere in Lilongwe District.

The First Lady said Malawi's ranking on number seven on countries with high cases of child marriages was disheartening.

In this regard, Chakwera urged individuals and organisations to be part of the solution to end child marriages and ensure that girls return to school.

She said: "This is a sad development because as a country, we stand to lose a lot of things if we continue neglecting such issues. I, therefore, urge every Malawian and organisation to play a

leading role in curbing child marriages which have denied most of our girls a right to education."

"If we work collaboratively in protecting our girls and ensuring they have access to quality education and then will be able drop down from number seven to bottom of the list."

The First Lady said there were several challenges, including poverty, selfish motives, cultural beliefs and hunger that hinder girls from furthering studies and pursuing their dreams.

Despite these challenges, she appealed to parents and guardians to encourage their children to work hard in school.

"My personal commitment in fighting for a girl child comes from my childhood experience. I grew up in a very poor environment where I used to walk five kilometers to go to school.

I could have easily dropped out of school but my mother supported me throughout the process and here I am today. This is the spirit that all parents need to have," said Chakwera.

World Vision  
launched the  
It Takes Ma-  
lawi to End  
Child  
Marriage  
campaign in  
2018

Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Patricia Kaliati assured Malawians that her ministry would ensure that it dissolves all child marriages by 2023.

She said that government is working hard to ensure that all child marriages identified are dissolved and to get the girls back to school.



Kaliati said through the National Strategic Plan of 2018-2023, her ministry was working towards ending child marriages and was positive this will be achieved by 2023.

“We have dissolved over 4000 marriages and have identified 40,000 early pregnancies and 22,000 early marriages,” said Kaliati.

On his part, World Vision Malawi Director of Programmes, Charles Chimombo said the organization strives to promote the well-being of children and equality for girls.

The International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually on October 11 since the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 in 2011 to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges they face around the globe.

This year's commemoration was organized by World Vision International and the global theme was MyVoice, Our equal Future.

# 4 000

Marriages  
dissolved since It Takes Ma-  
lawi to End Child Marriages started



Dr. Patricia Kaliati addressing the gathering

# Finally, Ireen gets clean water

**I**n this mountainous region of Malawi, set in the rift valley of Nkhoma in Mgololo Kungsi village, a large community is tilling the soil in preparation for the first borehole in the area. It is early morning, and the excitement is tangible as the hoes dig deeper into the rich red sands, clearing the debris ahead of one of the biggest drilling operations they have ever seen.

Within an hour the normally quiet serene village is teeming with the sound of heavy trucks meandering through the rocky hills to settle at the designated location by the surveyor. The World Vision team is on the hunt for water on behalf of this community, especially a 9-year-old girl, Ireen.

In Malawi only 87% of the population have access to clean water and only 88% access to basic sanitation.

It is unimaginable that this child with a wide smile has a heavy burden to carry. For the last few years Ireen has been responsible walking with her mother to Mgololo stream, 3 kilometres from her home to fetch water. She makes the trip three times a day. Twice in the morning before sunrise and once in the afternoon after knocking off from school. Now that World Vision has come to drill a borehole in her village her life is about to change forever.

Ireen's story resonated with World Vision. Initially, there was no funding set aside to give clean water to Ireen's village. World Vision has three area programs in the area namely Chigodi, Chilenje and Nkhoma, but because of the plight of Ireen's family, a global effort was made to ensure that she has a more secure future by simply providing her and her family with clean potable water.



For hours the drilling machine crushes its way through hard rock grinding it to a pulp. At the base of the machine, a grey sandy matter has heaped as evidence of the ground being broken. The community has anxiously sat on the sidelines, braving the darkness coming with the hours gone, waiting for a miracle.

Gordon Bikha, the Chief driller with World Vision, has been working with the organization since 2011. He has a hearty disposition for a man who spends so much time in the sweltering heat. In between moving pipes and adjusting the drilling machine, he makes an effort to put the by-standers at ease.

He understands their anxiety and is quick to reassure them that water will be found. There are several dry wells, which is to be expected in this rocky environment of Nkhoma. Bikha explains the challenges they faced.

Finally, the water:

And Traditional Authority Mgololo

Kungsi seems relieved, at last.

"We have been drinking dirty water for a long time and as a result there was sickness, sickness, and sickness. There will finally be some peace because we will have safe drinking water and the incidences of water borne-diseases will decrease", said the traditional leader.

The community proudly watches Ireen draw the first water from the borehole. Young as she maybe, they all agree, she is their champion. "I'm happy. The distance for me to get water will be so much shorter and this time I will get clean water", said Ireen.

World Vision Malawi is directly supporting an estimated 1.5 million children across all the country's 28 districts in health and nutrition, food security, education, humanitarian response, advocacy, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

**204** taps Installed, 125 boreholes drilled and 97 boreholes rehabilitated in 2019-2020 fiscal year.





## Home Schooling offers Alternative Learning

**T**aonga Zimba, 5 has shown great potential in education. At five years old, Taonga is able to read both English and Chichewa fluently. This is very rare to find such a young girl of her age doing what she is doing and being from such a rural village as Mutchenda, where education for young people is such a hustle.

However, Taonga's mother, Mariette Chirwa, says Taonga is a clever girl both when she is home and at school. Even at home you will find her showing interest in education as she takes up the role of a teacher and she teaches her friends as they play.

"Although what she teaches her friends and her two siblings is not something we can call teaching but I have seen great potential in her and I am very sure that with time she will be able to catch up and start providing the essential learning to them", her mother says.

"Tawonga goes to Kasalanje Community Based Care Centre, a local nursery school for learners aged one year to five years. At the nursery school, Tawonga has shown great interest in early learning. However, this was dealt a big upset when the Government announced the closure of schools in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic," says Mariette.

She adds: "When this happened, I knew that there will be a lot of educational loss and I was worried if Taonga would continue doing what she had been doing in the past having in mind the fact that there were still a lot of uncertainties as to when schools will reopen."

However, Mariette Chirwa was one of the women who attended World Vision Malawi's training on Home Schooling

which was organized with a purpose of having parents teaching their children in their homes during the Pandemic.

"When I attended the training I felt compelled to adopt what we were taught right away with the aim of assisting my children. We were taught how we could use locally available materials in teaching our children here at home. That was in August and a week later I had everything ready at home and my children started learning here at home," Mariette explains proudly.

She further says that Taonga just like her two siblings Alfonsino and Clemenceau are now able to recite the alphabet, the calendar, days of the week as well as read some words at will.

"Sometimes I just found them teaching each other and it forces me to stop whatever I was doing and start assisting them. But when I am busy you would see that Taonga has taken up my role and she teaches her colleagues." Mariette adds that currently she does not have a proper teaching schedule as she is always tempted to assist her children frequently due to the kids' continued appetite for learning.

"I want to become a medical doctor when I grow up so that I could assist sick people from my village here at Chavunguma," says Taonga as she plays with Alfonsino.



## e-Mlimi Serving Farmers in Nkhata-bay

Friday Zimba from Kapalapata Village, Traditional Authority Timbiri in Nkhatabay district is living a new lease of life following the introduction of eMlimi mobile application by World Vision, Farm Concern Agriculture and Vision Fund through the Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE) Project in the area.

e-Mlimi is an application aimed at helping farmers find markets while at home. The application also helps farmers access different agricultural information that can help them improve their agricultural practices.

Friday says the platform has helped him have customers from as far as the capital city of Malawi, Lilongwe and down south, Blantyre.

Friday is one of the beneficiaries of the THRIVE project being implemented in the district by World Vision in Partnership with Farm Concern Agriculture and Vision Fund.

Friday boasts to have benefitted from the project.

"In the past, we have been practicing agriculture because we inherited it from our forefathers. It was a tradition to be a farmer, we had no vision or any other plans than just farming for food," says Friday.

Despite growing on over 2.5 acres of land, Friday says the yield was relatively low. "We were living a miserable life with no future," he added.

Friday says his life started to improve when World Vision introduced an Area Programme under Chikwina-Mpamba. He says through the livelihood project, his agricultural produce started to improve.

"They taught us how to improve farming practices so that we can increase yield. That's when I saw that my life started to progress. In those years, World Vision was my

only market. They bought my maize produce and sold it to other farmers," says Friday.

Friday also had 2 beehives in his natural forest where he was harvesting honey for sale and cassava for food to improve the diet of his children at home.

"In 2017, the Development Facilitator in the area invited me to a THRIVE training that was organized by World Vision. I attended the training that was aimed at changing our mindset and the heart so that we generate funds for the pocket. That's when my mind opened up," says Friday.

"I started to have a vision. I saw that I had a lot of idle land around my house so the following year in 2018, I decided to plant pine trees and I did," added Friday.

Currently, Friday has 575 pine trees planted around his house at 4 metres apart. He also has close to 4,500 pine trees in his nursery.

"My goal is to harvest more honey from the forest to be created because there is money in honey business and I believe this will sustain me for the rest of my life," says the visionary. Friday plans to have over 10 hectares of forest to recover the environment and harvest honey from. He currently has 20 beehives.

Apart from pine trees, Friday also has an orchard around his house where he harvests fruits. He has also diversified into goat farming. He has six goats. He has passed on the goats to other two families and plans to expand his goat business even further. He also grows maize and sweet potatoes for sale.

"On the eMlimi platform, I access a lot of information on improved agricultural practices that can enhance my business. This has enabled me to increase yield year in, year out

without relying on World Vision's Development Facilitators," says

says Friday, who also supports other farmers with the information in the area.

He adds that their products are also displayed on the platform so that potential customers can see and buy the products.

"As I'm talking now, we have a farmers club which sells processed ginger. The product is displayed on the platform with prices. Currently, we have received orders from companies and restaurants from Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu to supply them with our ginger; this saves us time and money," says Friday.

He adds that he is also expecting to sale his 70 bags of maize through the application to traders in Mzuzu and Lilongwe at over 1.2 million kwacha.

"If I say things have changed, they really have changed. We are making all these business links while here at home," adds Friday.

"The money generated from the sales is currently used to pay school fees for my 2 girls who are now in form 4 at Luwazi Secondary School. I also use part of the money to invest in farming and support the family at home with basic needs. My children are all healthy and we live a good life," says Friday.

World Vision in partnership with Farm Concern Agriculture and Vision Fund introduced the eMlimi platform to help farmers with agricultural information and finding markets for their products. World Vision distributed smartphones to farmers in the area to access the platform. Some farmers with smart phones are downloading the application on Playstore where it is found.











# Njema community to enjoy clean water



Stakeholders touring the water source

World Vision Malawi (WVM) says it is geared to provide clean and potable water to communities in order to promote the healthy wellbeing of people especially children in the country.

WVM Director of Programs Charles Chimombo said this during a visit to Mishoni gravity fed system, a water project in Traditional Authority Njema in Mulanje.

Chimombo observed that much as access to clean and potable water remains a human right to every person, for so long, communities in T/A Njema have been denied access to such a precious commodity.

“To have water for household use, women and girls had to rely on shallow wells or walk long distances to access it from taps or boreholes,” he said.

In view of this, Chimombo said the organization decided to embark on rehabilitation of Mishoni gravity fed system to tap water from Muloza River and connect to 343 taps for use.

According to Chimombo, the system apart from supplying clean and potable water to over 31,000 households in T/A Njema, also serves other communities in Phalombe district.

“Reaching this far, we believe that the wellbeing of many people especially children have improved for the better because they are able to access water within their reach,” he said.

He therefore commended the collaboration that exists between government, Water Users Association and WVM to support the communities in the cause.

Charles Kenani, General Assembly Chair who also represented Water Users Association for Phalombe expressed gratitude to WVM for initiating the project in the area.

He then assured the organization to take care of the Mishoni gravity fed system to benefit more communities in the area.

**31,000**  
People in Njema now have  
access to  
clean water

“Previously, we had cases of diarrhea because people were consuming water from unprotected wells but now things have changed. We therefore applaud WVM for this and we pledge our commitment to safeguard the system seriously for continued use,” he said.

Funded by World Vision Hong Kong to the tune of \$80,000, the rehabilitation of the system started in 2015 and it supplies water to households, schools and other essential facilities in the district.

# World Vision Awards Best Performing Staff



Mavuto Kholowa receiving his award from Leila at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe

It's that time of the year where performers get recognized and rewarded for their hard work. This year World Vision Malawi held yet another staff awards gala. In Lilongwe, the function was held at Lilongwe Hotel, while Mzuzu and Blantyre settled for Mzuzu and Mount Soche Hotels, respectively.

In Lilongwe, the function was graced by the Regional Director of People and Culture, Leila Ntibashirwa.

Speaking during the award ceremony, Leila says she was humbled to be part of the event as Malawi has now made a lot of strides in the whole partnership.

"I am glad to be part of this event as now Malawi gets recognized in the whole partnership. Through story hub, Malawi is now able to contribute strong stories that are being downloaded and appreciated worldwide. In the whole partnership, Malawi stands among the top 20 countries that are contributing stories with a lot of impact and in Africa, Malawi is on position three," says Leila.

Leila thanked the members of staff for their great work that

is being recognized internationally and encouraged them to work even harder.

People and Culture Director for Malawi, Debbie Tsilizani Phiri says the award gala is organized as one way of motivating staff to perform even better in the next Financial Year.

In Central Zone, most of the awards including the post of Best District Manager went to Mchinji district.

Speaking in an interview, the District's Programme Manager Mavuto Kholowa acknowledged team work as the main driver of their performance.

"We work in an environment which is very supportive, where we believe in the ability and intentions of each one to do their work. We focus on people management, we have an open culture and accept criticism as growth and above all, we live and work as one family," says Kholowa.

Francis Wane, who went home with the National Office Finance Officer of the year award says the award has motivated him to work extra hard.





“The award means a lot to me and my family, firstly, it shows that my employer takes keen interest in its employee’s performance. It is also a pride to my family as the achievement is celebrated by the whole family and this will push me to work even harder to contribute in achieving organizational goals,” says Wane.

Regina Thom from Kameme Area Program in Chitipa is another recipient of the best performing award. Regina is Food Security Development Facilitator for Kameme AP. Regina shares similar sentiments with Francis Wane.

“I am very excited for this award, this means World Vision is able to recognize the work that I am doing in Kameme Area Program,” says Regina.

She adds that she finds satisfaction in serving the most vulnerable people of Malawi in the communities. Regina says that, during the past year, a lot of families in Kameme Area Program have seen their financial status being improved through Village Savings and Loans and Aquaculture.

Monica Macheso from South Zone went home as the longest serving member of staff award. Monica is currently the Team Leader for Mpama Area Program in Chiradzulo district.

Monica joined World Vision on 19th October, 1991 as the Secretary to the Regional Operations Manager for World Vision Malawi. Monica held a series of administrative positions before she was upgraded to the post of Sponsorship Development Facilitator and then the current position of Team Leader for Mpama Area Programme.

“I am excited to receive the award of the longest serving member of staff here at World Vision, I didn’t expect that and actually I was shaking when I was going in front to receive the award,” says the ever smiling Monica.

Monica, who has now worked with World Vision for close to 30 years has 4 children and 6 grandchildren. She holds a degree in Business Administration from Blantyre International University. Monica says she is proud with what she has achieved with World Vision.

“Over the years, I have mentored a lot of young men who have attained the positions of District Facilitators, Coordinators and a number of District Programme Managers some of whom are still with World Vision and others moved on to different non-governmental organisations.

“As a passionate Christian, morning devotions with the World Vision family have always inspired me to stay with World Vision. A lot of organisations do not incorporate Christian values in their work, but World Vision is unique in that way. That’s why I have always wanted to stay with World Vision,” says Monica.

The award winners went home with certificates, trophies, shopping vouchers and smart phones using a small budget under Staff Training and Development.

The smart phones were donated by the Business Support Services department from the remainder of a consignment that is provided every two years by Airtel and TNM through the agreement made on the purchase of Airtime for business calls for staff.





On the staff awards night, we saw hugs, tears and big smiles. Congratulations to all who won. And thanks to all our staff members for accepting to serve the orange and help children and communities dream. #WeareWorldVision











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