



A nutrition promoter, working in her backyard garden with her two sons (FNSP Programme; GIZ)

# UP MALAWI NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

## Programme Highlights

- UP constructs Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines in schools; in addition to being sturdier, safer and more hygienic than traditional latrines, our latrine designs include Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities. With support from Charity: water, **UP finalised the construction of 10 gender-responsive VIP latrines with hand-washing facilities in three primary schools in Dowa district, serving a total of 5,749 learners (2,952 girls and 2,797 boys).**
- Again with funding from Charity:water, **UP continues to support the COVID-19 Response in Dowa district and distributed WASH supplies to the District Health Office**, including 20 buckets of HtH Chlorine, 10 pressure sprayers, 190 boxes of examination gloves and 200 boxes of liquid soap.
- The GIZ-funded **Food and Nutrition Security Programme (FNSP) conducted safeguarding orientations to government stakeholders and frontline workers**, including District Nutrition Coordinating Committee, Area Nutrition Coordinating Committee and Village Nutrition Coordinating Committee members. A total of 276 people (166 Men and 110 Women) from four TAs in Dedza, (Chauma, Kamenyagwaza, Tambala and Kasumbu) were reached. A total of 187 safeguarding posters were also distributed to government structures.
- The Livelihoods Chitetezo Project in Malawi funded by the Livelihoods Fund provides free cleaner cookstoves to Social Cash Transfer Beneficiaries and sells stoves at ‘market value’ to households in Zomba and Machinga. **The project trained 50 stove promoters and distributed 256 stoves to promoters in Zomba and 3,141 stoves to promoters in Machinga.**
- Our ECHO-funded “Support to at risk districts and communities in Malawi to prevent, rapidly detect and effectively respond to COVID-19” **project conducted a Hygiene Promotion Training targeting Village Civil Protection Committee (VCPC) members in TA Kachindamoto, Dedza district.**



A learner at Katundu School in Dowa district using the new WASH facilities (Di-WASH project; Charity:water)



Newly constructed girls' toilets at Dzoole School, Dowa district (Di-WASH project; Charity:water)



Safeguarding orientation for Dedza District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (FNSP programme; GIZ)

## Learning, collaboration & influence

### *New project, new collaboration:*

After successfully implementing the Comic Relief-funded Girls INSPIRED project (2019-2020) that used netball to empower vulnerable girls in rural Dedza, at the beginning of this month and again with funding from Comic Relief, UP started the implementation of the Reaching Our Goals project. Building on our previous experience, this two-year project targets 233 of the most marginalised girls and 35 boys aged 15-19 in rural Dedza District, who have either never been to school or dropped out without gaining functional literacy or numeracy. **The project aims to empower the adolescent girls through netball and improve their ability to make informed decisions about their future, better enabling them to lead the lives they choose.** The Reaching Our Goals is being implemented together with LINK Malawi. LINK Malawi is part of a family of organisations working to transform education for children and communities across impoverished rural areas in Malawi, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. LINK has been working in Malawi since 2006. We believe that this project will allow UP Malawi to benefit from LINK's expertise in education and girls' empowerment and will lay the foundations for a long-lasting partnership between the two organisations.

## Our Team and Operations

### *Working arrangements:*

After another round of quarterly COVID 19 risk assessments on all of our projects we have once again adjusted our COVID 19 operational guide for staff and our measures.

We now have increased access to our offices and have moved away from a bubble system to a cohort working arrangement. We will not move back to full office working until the pandemic stabilise in our neighbouring countries.

### *Safeguarding and Well-being:*

Are you concerned about: suspected, witnessed or potential harm caused by UP's projects or partner projects; or abuse by a member of staff, volunteer, visitor, contractor or any another UP representative? **Report:**

by phone or in person to UP's safeguarding focal points

Dedza 0997 579 173

Lilongwe & Dowa 0999 083 322

Balaka & Mangochi 0993 382 079

Blantyre, Thyolo, Mulanje & Chiradzulu 0999 491 740

Safeguarding Steward 0888 863 823

Safeguarding Steward 0992 484 387

Country Director 0992 389 893

### *Anonymously through deloitte*



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reportsqm@tip-offs.com

Bypass UP Malawi? Email UK: [concerns-uk@united-purpose.org](mailto:concerns-uk@united-purpose.org)



### *Our team is the driving force behind our successes:*

#### **In the spotlight this month: Gift Munthali**

Gift Munthali joined UP in 2003 as an HIV/AIDS mainstreaming coordinator for Nyalayithe Food Security Project (NYFSP) and Dedza Food Security Improvement Project (DFSIP). His coordination role included crosscutting issues of gender, rights and advocacy in line with the changing environment. His key role remained capacity building of staff and technical guidance to all existing projects. Gift has also worked with Kasumbu Food Security Project (KFSP) 2007 – 2011 and Local Development Support Programme (LDSP) 2011 – 2015. Currently, Gift is the Governance and Social Accountability Coordinator under the **Achieving Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Increased Inclusive Resilience and Empowerment (ASPIRE) programme.** This is the Embassy of Ireland's flagship livelihoods and governance programme in the country, reaching 25,000 households in Dedza. Through his work, Gift has supported the development and implementation of mainstreaming strategies, advocacy plans, empower communities in social accountability monitoring, self-reliance through implementation of REFLECT circle, male championship and piloting of the anti-Gender-Based Violence toolkit.

Gift is also a member of UP Safeguarding Committee and has become an active INGO District focal point during the COVID-19 response. **UP is extremely fortunate to have staff members like Gift who not only promotes our value but lives them and inspires others to follow his example!**

# Stories from the people we work with

## The importance of good nutrition during pregnancy

*Informed consent was obtained before recording this story*

The GIZ-funded Food and Nutrition Security Programme (FNSP) implemented by United Purpose in Dedza district **uses the care-group model to promote good nutrition practices using locally available food products.**

Households that decide to join the initiative and learn more about healthy nutrition practices are split into clusters of 10 to 15 members led by cluster leaders selected from within the communities.

**The cluster leaders are trained by the programme on the importance of balanced meals that contain the six food groups and how to prepare them.** Most of these foods are available locally and the programme also encourages households to diversify their diets by providing them with vegetable seeds, livestock (chickens and goats) and fruit trees seedlings.

Julieta Samuel, aged 22, is a nutrition promoter for Nsumbi Village Development Committee (VDC) under the FNSP programme. Julieta lives in Nsumbu

2 Village, Group Village Headman Nsumbi in T/A Kasumbu with her husband, Chikumbutso Fayifi, who is 24 years old and her two children, Kenile Chikumbutso aged three and Nikileto Chikumbutso who is a three-month old baby.

As a nutrition promoter, Julieta has been implementing different nutrition activities in Nsumbi VDC. She has been also following the good nutrition practices she learnt from the monitors, care group leaders and cluster leaders at her household. In 2020, Julieta's family was one of the households who received five chickens from the programme.

Julieta became pregnant with her second child in March 2020. Even before getting pregnant, she was already consuming all six food groups on a daily basis. She learnt this during training sessions in Maternal and Neonatal Health counselling module in 2019. During her pregnancy, she was preparing nutritious meals for her family. *"I was eating the six food groups because I wanted to give birth to a healthy baby. I also wanted to prove that the information in the Maternal and Neonatal Health counselling module is true and to encourage other mothers to do the same after they see my healthy baby"*, explained Julieta.

***"I gave birth to a healthy baby boy weighing 4.6kgs at birth. This was not the case with my first-born child who weighed 2.7kgs. My life has changed and that of my family too. We are a happy and healthy family now"***, said Julieta.

**Since his birth, Nikileto rarely falls sick unlike his elder brother when he was the same age. The family used to spend a lot of money on medication for their first-born son.**

Julieta has become a role model for other nutrition volunteers and other households. She now encourages other households to follow the nutrition counselling messages they receive from the volunteers.



*Julieta holding her baby boy, Nikileto*

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