



ODF status celebration in TA Tambala (FNSP, GIZ)

# UP MALAWI NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

## Programme Highlights

- In September 2021, **Traditional Authority (TA) Tambala in Dedza, Malawi** was officially declared **Open Defecation Free**. Through our Integrated Food Nutrition Security Programme (FNSP) funded by GIZ-BMZ, United Purpose in partnership with World Vision Malawi and Dedza District Health Office (DHO) supported 22,654 households in TA Tambala by improving their knowledge, attitudes and practices related to nutrition and hygiene behavior. The event was graced by the Deputy Minister of Health, Hon. Chrissy Kalamula Kanyasho.
- With funding from ECHO through COOPI, UP is supporting the rollout of Malawi's COVID-19 national vaccination campaign. **In view of the AstraZeneca doses expiring 30th September 2021, UP in partnership with Dedza DHO accelerated COVID-19 vaccine demand creation activities.** To this end, the project built synergies with other UP programmes in Dedza, to maximise opportunities to leverage other community gatherings for COVID-19 vaccine uptake through outreach vaccination sites, bringing the vaccine closer to the people. As a result, **Dedza district not only administered all AstraZeneca doses expiring at the end of September, but also received additional vaccines from Mangochi before they expired due to demand from one village in Dedza.**
- To ensure that project participants have sustainable access to improved seeds within the communities, **the European Union (EU)- funded SoSuRe project facilitated a Training of Trainers (ToT) on seed multiplication targeting 32 project staff and government agriculture extension workers (21 men and 11 women) from Mulanje and Zomba districts.** The aim of the training was to equip the participants with knowledge and skills on seed multiplication processes. The project staff and extension workers will in turn train the lead farmers in their respective areas. The participants in the training selected cow-

peas, orange fleshed sweet potatoes, soya beans and normal beans for the seed multiplication programme.



Practical demonstration on how to multiply vines (SoSuRe; EU)

- Again with funding from the EU, **the SoSuRe project conducted a five-day training of trainers (ToT) on the Ministry of Agriculture's Household Approach with the aim of equipping both project staff and relevant stakeholders (extension workers and gender sector heads) with knowledge and skills necessary for scaling up the approach.** The trained project staff and extension workers will then cascade the training to gender champions (community volunteers). The gender champions will in turn support households with long-term development planning or developing a joint 'vision' for their family. **Through this process, women, men and children will be engaged in a dialogue about how to safely challenge gender stereotypes and negotiate roles in the household and wider community.** The aim is to shift household decision making processes to a collective family decision and contribute to improving gender equality within the wider community.





*Household Approach training session (left) and practical session in the community (right);*

## Learning, collaboration & influence

### *Supporting the government of Malawi in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):*

Our mWater project is a great example of how partnerships can achieve long lasting impact.

We worked with the University of Strathclyde to map national water and sanitation points in Malawi, and identified sources of contamination – with funding from The Scottish Government. The findings will support the government of Malawi in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Watch the [documentary](#) produced by UP in collaboration with the Scottish government as part of the Climate Justice Fund programme to learn more about our WASH work in Malawi.

## Our Team and Operations

### *Working arrangements:*

With COVID 19 cases continuing to subside, and based on revised risk assessments across all our projects, we are excited to be preparing to move from 50% office working arrangements to 100%. Strict prevention measures will continue and we remain alert for the next wave.

### *Safeguarding and Well-being:*

Our Safeguarding and Well-being Committee are currently working on a revised community reporting channels to be launched in November 2021.

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

Shout out to **Everson Kadango**, a civil technician who works for UP WASH Programme. We recognized Everson for his commitment in ensuring that communities have continued access to clean and safe water. Find out more about his extraordinary work [here](#).

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

**Kissa**

**Mwakibinga**

Kissa joined UP Malawi in January 2016 as a Logistics & Stores Officer in charge of Fleet & Stores



Management. In August 2020, he was promoted to Procurement & Logistics Coordinator. Kissa is responsible for managing all United Purpose procurement and logistic processes in accordance with relevant guidelines. On numerous occasions, he has stepped up and filled in for the Procurement & Logistics Manager during some of the most challenging months as we navigated the global pandemic whilst remote working, and no gap has ever been felt. Kissa was also part of the team who developed UP current Fleet and Stores Management Policy. Kissa has facilitated various fleet and store management trainings for all UP staff. He has worked on several projects funded by major institutional donors, such as the EU, FCDO, GIZ, the Embassy of Ireland, WFP and USAID. Kissa is hardworking, skilled and kind team player who has built good working relationships with his colleagues, as well as stakeholders and services providers.

**UP is extremely fortunate to have staff members like Kissa who are not only bringing their expertise and experience, but also their enthusiasm, commitment and team spirit.**



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# Stories from the people we work with

## Farmers in Dedza district increase their harvest through use of modern farming methods

*Informed consent was obtained before recording this story*

Happiness, aged 32 years, is married with four children. She is a subsistence farmer who used to use traditional crop production methods in her one and quarter acres of land.

Just like in many other fields in her area, her crop production was greatly affected by soil erosion each year despite her efforts to raise the ridges when preparing the field. Her traditional farming practices as well as the erratic rainfalls affected her crop yield and made her family food insecure and prone to hunger. To ensure her family has enough food, Happiness was also selling banana fritters.



*Happiness working in her field*

When the Embassy of Ireland-funded Achieving Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Increased Resilience and Empowerment (ASPIRE) Programme mobilised Khwakhwa community to promote sustainable land management through catchment management, Happiness resisted. She spoke against those who followed and adopted sustainable land management practices. Happiness feared that marker ridges, swales and soak pits across her garden would reduce her area of crop cultivation. However, Happiness changed her mind after she saw the positive impact of improved farming practices on her neighbours' fields.

*"I resisted all soil and water conservation practices and thought that it was a waste of land and time. I later realised that my colleagues' fields were becoming more productive and their yields were significantly higher than mine. I decided to join them and adopted the land conservation measures in my field and suddenly my crop production doubled that cropping season. My field was well conserved with excellent crop stand when compared to neighbouring fields without marker ridges, swales and soak pits. For the first time, I harvested 9 oxcart and 7 bags of beans compared to 4 oxcart in previous seasons. I realised harnessing the soil was all I needed to improve my family's livelihood,"* explains Happiness.

Happiness has now fully adopted sustainable management practices in her field as part of catchment management. She has also adopted climate resilient technologies, such as conservation agriculture. She plants improved early maturing maize varieties following recommended practices, applies manure and ensures timely weeding and fertilizer application. She feels excited about the current growing season and expects to double her harvest from the previous one.

Happiness has become a role model farmer and she is advocating for sustainable land management and trying to motivate others to adopt good agricultural practices. *"With modern farming methods, you use less time and resources to produce more from a small piece of land"*, she explained.

**The ASPIRE Programme with funding from the Embassy of Ireland and using the lead farmer approach is supporting 2,191 (920 men and 1,271 women) farmers in Dedza to adopt sustainable land management. Communities have been mobilised to work in groups and share learning and experience on catchment management. As a result, farmers are reporting increased crop yields, reduced soil erosion and improved water retention.**

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