



Training of WASH Club members at Khoche Primary School in T/A Tambala, Dedza (FNSP Programme; GIZ)

UP MALAWI NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

Programme Highlights

- **On Earth Day (22nd April), BBC Future Planet published an [article on the biogas digester](#) which UP installed at Mulanje prison with funding from the European Union.**
- UP has developed an innovative school-based ‘Shasha Whatanzi’ (‘Hygiene Heroes’) approach aiming to promote good hygiene practices in schools. The ‘Shasha Whatanzi’ toolkit uses games to teach children the importance of good hygiene practices and prevention of water-borne diseases. **Using this toolkit, the GIZ-funded Food and Nutrition Security Programme (FNSP) conducted WASH trainings in 20 schools in T/A Tambala, Dedza district.**
- Our FCDO-funded PROSPER programme **distributed cash for winter farm inputs to over 7,000 farmers in Mangochi and Balaka.** The programme also organised **post-harvest handling refresher training** to government extension workers and over 1,000 lead farmers. The programme also **facilitated the pass-on of over 1,000 livestock to second line farmers** and trained those farmers in livestock management.
- UP published [a magazine](#) featuring 10 powerful personal stories which showcase the tangible impact of the EU-funded Pro-Resilience Action project implemented between November 2017 and February 2021. The project supported 33,797 Social Cash Transfer (SCT) most vulnerable households (HH) to become more resilient to food and climate change shocks in Mulanje, Zomba and Nsanje districts.
- 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 **COVID-19 and hygiene training** targeting Community Development Assistants and Sanitation, Health and Nutrition teachers from schools in Dedza district.
- With support from The One Foundation, UP conducted **COVID-19 awareness raising using mobile vans with a PA system and radio messaging (GAKA FM radio)**, reaching to 98,485 (56,410 men and 42,075 women) in Thyolo. UP also **provided WASH supplies**, including tapped buckets for hand washing, untapped buckets for water storage and waste bins, to two Health Care Facilities (HCFs) and schools in Thyolo. **Hand washing demonstrations were also conducted at markets, schools and the two HCFs**, reaching to 9,610 people (4,490 men and 5,120 women).



Distribution of cash for winter farm inputs (PROSPER programme)



Training in Livestock Management (PROSPER programme)

Learning, collaboration & influence

Opportunities and Barriers for Minigrid Developers in Malawi:

- On 28th April, Elizabeth Banda, UP Project Manager for the University of Strathclyde and Scottish Government funded Rural Energy Access through Social Enterprise and Decentralisation (EASE) project, took part in an online knowledge sharing [event](#) involving a range of minigrid stakeholders currently active in Malawi. The event aimed to discuss opportunities and barriers for minigrid developers in Malawi and Elizabeth was invited as a panellist to share UP's experience with installing a solar PV micro-grid in Dedza which is currently providing electricity to 40 households, 18 small businesses, a church and a school.



The solar PV mini-grid in GVH Mthembanji, Dedza

Our Team and Operations

Working arrangements:

- Following a risk assessment conducted in March, we have increased the number of team members able to work from our offices. From 26th April 2021 all staff were organised into cohorts which replaces our previous bubbles. This has been reviewed in line with the changing context and the low transmission rates.



Handwashing demonstration in Changata Primary School, Thyolo district (COVID-19 WASH Response in Thyolo)



Training in Post-harvest handling (PROSPER programme)

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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Bypass UP Malawi? Email UK: concerns-uk@united-purpose.org

Our team is the driving force behind our successes:

- In the spotlight this month: Sebastien Njerengo**

Sebastian joined UP on 16th April 1997 as an assistant driller. In 2002, he was promoted to driller under the Thyolo Community Development Project (TCDP). Sebastian was also assigned to conduct site surveying, borehole test pumping, borehole repairing, borehole rehabilitation. He also trained area mechanics as part of Thyolo and Ntcheu WASH projects. In January 2020, Sebastian was promoted to Drilling Supervisor. Sebastian is hard working and has built a great working relationship with his UP colleagues as well as Government stakeholders and communities. UP is extremely fortunate to have long-term committed staff members like Sebastian!



Sebastien Njerengo, Drilling Supervisor

Stories from the people we work with

Restoring our Earth through Climate Smart Agriculture

Informed consent was obtained before recording this story

Environmental protection and sustainable development are intertwined. Soil erosion, land degradation and deforestation compromise all development efforts and may lead to increased levels of poverty in Malawi despite important gains in poverty reduction made in recent years.

In an effort to improve food security while also protecting the environment, United Purpose through the FCDO-funded PROSPER programme is training lead farmers in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices. In 2020, the programme trained 1,053 lead farmers (475 men and 578 women) in Mangochi and Balaka



M'madi Masala with his wife Elufe Bitoni appreciating maize in their field

districts. The lead farmers then establish demonstration plots with different varieties of crops using modern farming technologies, such as using Mbeya manure instead of chemical fertilizers, and train more farmers in their respective areas on how to sustainably use their land.

M'madi Masala, a 39 year old lead farmer married with four children from Tangwa village in GVH Changali, T/A Chimwala in Mangochi district, was one of the farmers who took part in this initiative. Masala attended a training on Mbeya manure making in 2020 which was conducted by the programme in partnership with government stakeholders. **After the training, he started putting into practice the new technologies and bore witness that Mbeya manure brings more economic benefits than the chemical fertilizer. To make Mbeya manure only small quantities of chemical fertilizer are necessary, while the other raw materials required, such as animal dung, ashes and water, are locally sourced and cheap. In addition, Mr Masala said that Mbeya manure also helped to conserve water in the soil and while the district experienced dry spells and most of the fields in the area were affected, his field was not affected and was still holding moisture.**

During this farming season, he produced four bags of Mbeya manure (weighing 50kgs each) which he used for his field.

Mr M'madi, is proud of his crop stand as it looks good with big cobs which gives him hope that he is going to have high yield in this 2020/2021 farming season. M'madi said he was expecting to harvest more than 30 bags of maize weighing 50kgs each from a one-acre land. This is something he has never achieved before. Mr M'madi added that the 30 bags that he was expecting to harvest this year would be enough for him and his family throughout the year until the next farming season. In previous years, he managed to produce only 10bags of maize on the same piece of land and those lasted for less than six months.

Masala is encouraging farmers within his community to start making and using Mbeya manure. He is conducting field days to showcase the results from the Mbeya manure on his demonstration plot and encourage adoption by other households.

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For more information contact: UP Malawi Country Director: Kate.Hartley-Louis@united-purpose.org