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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of contents

1. Word from the Board Chair -----	3
2. Word from Executive Director -----	4
3. Summary of Achievements -----	5
4. Projects featured in the past 12 months -----	6
4.1. Early Childhood Development -----	6
4.2. The Voice of Her- End Child Marriage Campaign -----	9
4.3. Women and Youth Empowerment -----	12
4.4. Water Sanitation and Hygiene -----	14
4.5. Research on clean cooking -----	17
5. Partners -----	18
6. Plan for the next year -----	19
7. Acknowledgements -----	19

WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Poverty, illiteracy, abuse, violence and neglect pose serious health and social concerns among marginalized communities. In particular, women and children are most vulnerable members in the community who suffer adverse physical and psychological consequences of abuse. To protect marginalized women, youth and children from poverty, illiteracy and injustice and neglect, CHICOSUDO put in place a number of strategies to address and protect them. These measures as reflected in this annual report are therefore meant to facilitate the mitigation and management of abuses and assist to reduce chances of future occurrences including contracting sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS, emergency contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies, psychosocial support and counseling, reduce trauma, assist the survivors and advocate for better services.

CHICOSUDO was designed to work with the communities and other local support organizations and give general information, emphasis on case management. Special efforts are made to address the needs of vulnerable children and women in recognition that children and women form a largest proportion of survivors' abuse, violence and neglect. So far in this report, CHICOSUDO, would like to share changes we have made in the lives of people we save in two districts, Blantyre and Mulanje. CHICOSUDO also intends to share what partners have contributed to the achievements of its strategic plan goals for 2019 to 2023. CHICOSUDO and cooperate community members, local support organizations hope that this annual report reflect what we have achieved in regards to our strategic goal, lessons learnt, challenges we have faced and the future plans.

Am taking this opportunity to appreciate the tireless job which the newly board of trustees, staff members and volunteers have made. Without their tireless efforts, all these celebrations could not happen. In representing for the board of trustees and the entire management, appreciation should go to the wide pull of partners, those who have contributed with resources-funds, materials and human. It's our intension to have you for the next years so that our partnership should continue bringing change in the lives of marginalized women and children in Malawi.

To go faster, walk alone, but to go far, move together. Let's all hold hands to transform the lives in areas we work. CHICOSUDO will rely on support for all.



Mr D. Misomali
Board of Trustees Chairman

WORD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The period of July 2019 to June 2020, has been the year of continuous change in the lives of marginalized women and children in two impact districts of Blantyre and Mulanje. Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organization (CHICOSUDO) continued to professionalize their charitable work to operate according to the highest standards. As the second year of the implementation of CHICOSUDO strategic plan of 2019 to 2023, lessons learnt, have created new thinking of the future interventions. For example, we didn't plan for COVID -19, but CHICOSUDO have managed to develop new partnership and also strengthened the existing ones in implementation of new interventions.

CHICOSUDO continue to focus on education, women and youth empowerment, end child marriage, water sanitation and hygiene and food security. CHICOSUDO carries its activities in Blantyre and Mulanje districts. Our approach remains on research, information dissemination, support and advocacy. Our focus during the period remain on providing capacity building to the community structures including, Community Based Organizations, Area Development Committee, Village Development Committee, School Management Committee , PTA , Mother Groups etc in Primary Schools. Through these approaches we assure that these community structures could get more organized in achieving their intended goals and also how could they take part in implementing activities of different thematic areas aligned by the government

It took courage, skills and commitment from both community beneficiaries, CHICOSUDO staff and volunteers since the activities have been run on voluntary and in-kind contribution basis with few financial contributions from leadership of the organization, District Social Welfare officers of Blantyre and Mulanje districts, Victim Support Units, Mulanje Magistrate Courts and other nongovernmental organizations working in impact areas of the same districts.



Mr Samson W. Mulole
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Malawi remains as poorer and poorer country in the world. Over 50.7% out of over 17.5 million Malawians still live under poverty line and the ultra-poor increased from 22.5% to 25% by 2015 (MGDS III 2017-2022). With high levels of poverty, women and children remain vulnerable as they face many challenges.

In Malawi, 29% of women age 15-19 have begun childbearing; 22% have had a live birth and 7% are pregnant with first child. In rural areas, 31% of women age 15-19 have begun childbearing, compared with 21% in urban areas. Poverty, illiteracy, abuse, violence and neglect pose serious health and social concerns among marginalized communities. In particular, women and children are most vulnerable members in the community who suffer adverse physical and psychological consequences of abuse.

Chitani Community Sustainable Development Organization (CHICOSUDO) as a Malawian nonprofit making organization that was established in 2004 to uplift the lives of marginalized women and children. CHICOSUDO is registered with Malawi Government through Trustees Incorporation Act. CHICOSUDO is aiming at contributing to poverty alleviation among marginalized women and children by addressing hunger, diseases, injustice and illiteracy through information dissemination, empowerment, support and advocacy. To achieve this mission, CHICOSUDO focus areas include: education, women and youth empowerment, end child marriage, water sanitation and hygiene, emergency support and food security.

Through this report, CHICOSUDO share its achievements in areas of work as follows:

- CHICOSUDO supported **1125** orphans and vulnerable children by providing early childhood education and nutritious food. The year ending, CHICOSUDO transformed 3,391 parents surrounding 15 CBCCs. All the CBCCs have adopted clean cooking practices and improve adherence to ART.
- The year ending, CHICOSUDO reached 12,500 people in Blantyre and Mulanje with information and services on End Child Marriage through the Voice of Her Campaign. 25 children who dropped out of school and those at risk of getting married are back to school and reinforced community bylaws on protecting girls from early and forced marriages.
- The year ending 2019/2020, CHIOSUDO reached 5790 people indirectly through, entrepreneurship trainings, Tailoring, Embroidery, Computing, Barbershops and Salons Through these efforts, 75% of the targeted beneficiaries have started their own businesses.
- As of end June, suspected 11,087, confirmed cases 654, Confirmed death 8, recovered 89 and it was distributed in all 28 districts.

2. PROJECTS FEATURED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

2.1. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Caregiver providing early education at Chitani Community Based Child Care Center in Blantyre .

Photo Bridget CHICOSUDO

CHICOSUDO supported **1125** orphans and vulnerable children by providing early childhood education and nutritious food. The year ending, CHICOSUDO transformed 3,391 parents surrounding 15 CBCCs. All the CBCCs have adopted clean cooking practices and improve adherence to ART.

The first five years is a vital period in a child's life cycle to ensure children get off to the best start in life. But many children in Malawi face challenges from the day they are born. These range from parents or guardians not having the opportunity or knowledge to develop positive parenting skills, to poor health care and nutrition, little early stimulation and learning, and the lack of a protective environment. The challenges increased when children are also affected by HIV/AIDS and humanitarian disasters.

In year ending, CHICOSUDO continued supporting the expansion of ECD services through community-based childcare centres. And we use child care development framework that empowers, caregivers, health care workers, parents, counsellors to

enable them continue helping families to build their relationship with their children and link CBCCs to other development activities.

CHICOSUDO supported **1125** orphans and vulnerable children by providing them with early childhood education and nutritious food. The program targeted children of 3 to 5 years who were enrolled in 15 CBCCs which were established in Traditional Authority Kapeni in Blantyre and Traditional Authority Nkanda in Mulanje. These children benefited from nutrition porridge prepared by parenting committee at least once a day and from Monday to Friday during school days. Through this program many children with poor health, have

improved their health since the food was nutritious. All Community Based Child Care Centers have reported the increase in attendance for children with 5 % compared to 2018 to 2019. The Children at the Community Based Child Care Centers showed good performances in languages, plays, expressive arts, life skills, mathematics and the use of sanitation facilities. Based on the focus group discussions, at least 85% of children who are in Primary Schools and have passed through CBCC, they are likely have good passing grades in class than those who didn't. The report shows that they are also likely to remain at school than those who do not pass through CBCC.

Water sanitation and hygiene

At the learning centers, hand washing was promoted to ensure that all children especially orphan and vulnerable children have required knowledge in the use. CHICOSUDO also ensured that all parents surrounded communities adopted the use of handwashing in their households. This was done through demonstrations where 3,391 households were reached. With these practices, there has been reduction in water born related diseases among children. At least each household had latrines and hand washing facilities. Despite the time of monitoring, only 75% of households sampled had water in hand washing facilities especially tippy taps.

Expansion of Community Based Child Care Centers



Board Chair Mr D. Misomali visiting Zaithwa CBCC.

2019 to 2020, CHICOSUDO facilitated the establishment of one new CBCC. The CBCC was established at Chigumula Village, and the name of the CBCC is Zaithwa. The CBCC has 56 orphans and vulnerable children. Currently, the children are learning at rentable room. Todate, CHICOSUDO is managing 10 CBCCs namely: Tiwasamale, Mkundi, Tithandizane, Chitani, Tikondane, Tayamba, Chisangalalo, Mlaina, Peter, Chimwemwe and Zaithwa. These Centers have provided space for older orphans and vulnerable children who are in primary schools and Community Day Secondary Schools for evening classes and recreation centers. Lastly, the centers continue to provide space for village savings loans groups as one way of empowering women.

Parenting education

The year ending, CHICOSUDO transformed 3,391 parents surrounding 10 CBCCs. The focus areas of CHICOSUDO under this component were: promoting breast feeding, adherence to ART treatment especially to those living with HIV and AIDS, child stigma and discrimination. According to the focus group report, 90% of parents had improved their breast feeding practices and adopted sanitation during breast feeding and food preparation. There is improved in adherence among children on ART due to good involvement of parents and guardians. Other areas which have also improved is the reduction of stigma among children on ART treatment.

Clean cooking

CHICOSUDO continue providing education on clean cooking. All 10 CBCCs have one t Chitetezo Mbaula which promote clean cooking. This promotion, has also enabled 65% of households surrounded the CBCCS adopt clean cooking by buying one

Chitetezo Mbaula that is used in their homes.

2.2. THE LAUNCH OF THE VOICE OF HER: END CHILD MARRIAGE CAMPAIGN



The year ending, CHICOSUDO reached 12,500 people in Blantyre and Mulanje with information and services on End child Marriage through the Voice of Her Campaign. 25 children who drop out of school and those at risk of getting married are back to school and

of girl child from evil of gender based violence such as child marriages. Through this campaign, targeted adolescence and young girls of 12 to 17 years old who are at risk of getting married and the indirect beneficiaries were 5730 community members including key leaders and parents.

The campaign aimed at “aimed at preventing early and forced marriages by advocating for policies and law enforcement against girl child marriage thereby directly protecting, helping and empowering girls against forced marriage while facilitating their physical and emotional development for the full enjoyment of their childhood in group

Authority Mkanda, Mulanje district’

Some of key activities done



Lesley presenting during District Executive Committee – Mulanje. Photo Shora - FOHOP



Village sensitization meeting – Mwanakhu Village: Photo Bridget - CHICOSUDO

Key results

1. More children remain in schools

Results from sampled villages and schools showed that enrolment of girls has improved compared to previous years. Interviews with Head Teachers revealed the number of girls who don't want to be married until they are 18 years and above has increased though could not quantify by percentage or figures. Results from children FGDs indicated that 96% of the children and parents interviewed are not in favour of child marriage as this deprives children of their right to



Christopher conduct research on child marriage in Mulanje: Photo Lesley CHICOSUDO

education. 89.6% of the primary school going children regularly attends school. High rates of attendance are attributed to the increased understanding about the importance of education and continued awareness. The first term 2019/2020 session, 25 pupils (5 girls) who dropped out of schools were retained back and 20 pupils 14 girls and 6 boys at risk of dropping out of school from the following primary schools: Pasani, Sukayakwe, Samson and Likuwa were encouraged to remain in schools. As encouragement, they were supported with school uniforms under Supporting For Her Education efforts. However, more effort need to be done because cases are still existing. This entails that, although different actors are working hard to end child marriages, there is still resistance from other people due to different factors. Hence more organisations should join the fight in the area.

2. Change of attitude toward marriage



Sensitizing the youth on sexual reproductive health rights

Consultations made with children, their families and traditional leadership revealed that about 50% of girls who sought of child marriage as a solution to their problems are changing their attitude. The way girls look at marriage has now changed. Previously,

some girls and guardians saw marriage as an alternative way of addressing some of the socio-economical issues which affect their lives. However, there is still a quite substantial group of girls and parents who are still stuck in this primitive thinking and practices.

3. Changes in harmful cultural practices

Interviews with children, parents and traditional leaders show that harmful traditional practices which exposed children to child marriage are gradually been changed or outlawed. One of the old practices of keeping girls in doors during their first menstrual cycle has been changed. “When a girl experiences first menstruation, we help to understand reproductive changes which have occurred and help her how she can take care of her herself,” commented Caroline Nasiyaya of Sukayakwe Primary School mothers group.. Some harmful traditional practices exposed girls to early unsafe sex and this resulted in increased number of teen pregnancies like nocturnal ceremonies and initiation camps.

4. Paralegal re-established



Paralegal trainees showing their certificates after training. Photo: Chancy - CHICOSUDO

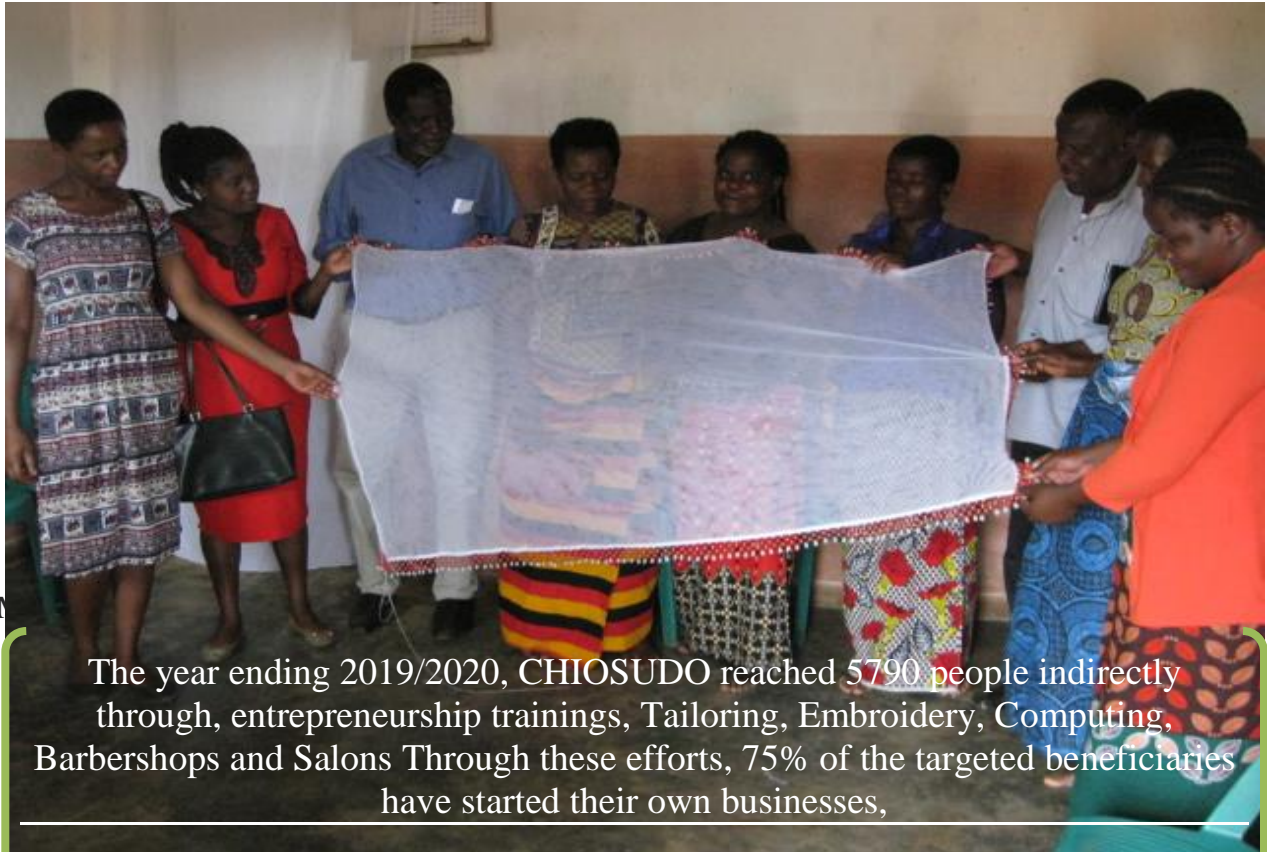
The area had two paralegals who apart from serving GVH Ntonya, they also provide services to over 5 GVH's. In this case, there was need of adding more paralegals who would be concentrating in GVH Ntonya only, if ending child marriage is to be achieved in the area. Therefore, the gap was addressed through this project.

5. Adoption of community bylaws that protect girls from early and forced marriages



Based on the focus group discussions, 75% of traditional, religious leaders and general community members are fully in support for the community bylaws. These have evidently by the increased number of cases reported to the authorities. According to the Mulanje Magistrate and district social welfare officer, there has been an increase from 39 in 2018 to 72 in 2019 during the same period.

2.3. WOMEN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The year ending 2019/2020, CHIOSUDO reached 5790 people indirectly through, entrepreneurship trainings, Tailoring, Embroidery, Computing, Barbershops and Salons Through these efforts, 75% of the targeted beneficiaries have started their own businesses,

are generally treated as second-class citizens and seen as someone to look after the home and bear children. Low economic status of women, youths, in the area has resulted in high incidence of Gender based violence, child abuse, low youth empowerment and low participation in decision making. Women and girls of the area are characterized by poverty and they are mostly involved in household chores, do not make any decisions in family affairs. Adding to that, women and girls have low education status as they are excluded from receiving basics to higher education and entirely dependent on their male counterparts.

main Center was at Ken Office while two were satellite. CHICOSUDO partnered with Fountain of Hope and Tiwasamale CBO .



Demonstration of poverty levels at Munyere Village. Photo – Bridget, CHICOSUDO

The year ending, CHICOSUDO opened three learning centers, Tiwasamale CBO, Ntenjera-Lesaka and at Ken Office. The

In view of the financial constraints that a family faces, this skill-building program strives to empower women, survivors of child brides and youth community at large.

It was observed that, if they are impacted with knowledge and skills, women and youth would be given more avenues to earn their living. Therefore CHICOSUDO focus strengthened the capacity of women and girls at risk and youth to help them raise their voices against the ill treatments accorded to them within their families or outside. Hence, vocational training project (stitching & embroidery), computing and entrepreneurship training that will enable the rural women and youth to learn and enhance their skills, enhancing their confidence level by making themselves self reliant.

Mobilization:

Reach out to the potential beneficiaries through mobilization and outreach initiatives encouraging women and girls enhance their skills by enrolling for tailoring, stitching, embroidery and computing courses. We also conducted entrepreneurship trainings for out of school youth.

Actual Training: Three months training course of stitching, computing for the beneficiaries as per their interest and feasibility.



Embroidery Training in progress at Goman Village. Photo Bridget Mkomo-CHICOSUDO

Linking with financial and markets:

CHICOSUDO will introduce Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) concept and small start up loans. The loan will be repaid within three months to allow others have advantage.

Working with Vocational Training institution

CHICOSUDO works with training institution for accreditation of learners. Therefore CHICOSUDO will work with both, government and private institutions. At the completion of the course, certificates will be disbursed to the beneficiaries.



Trainings are in progress at Ntonya CBO center.

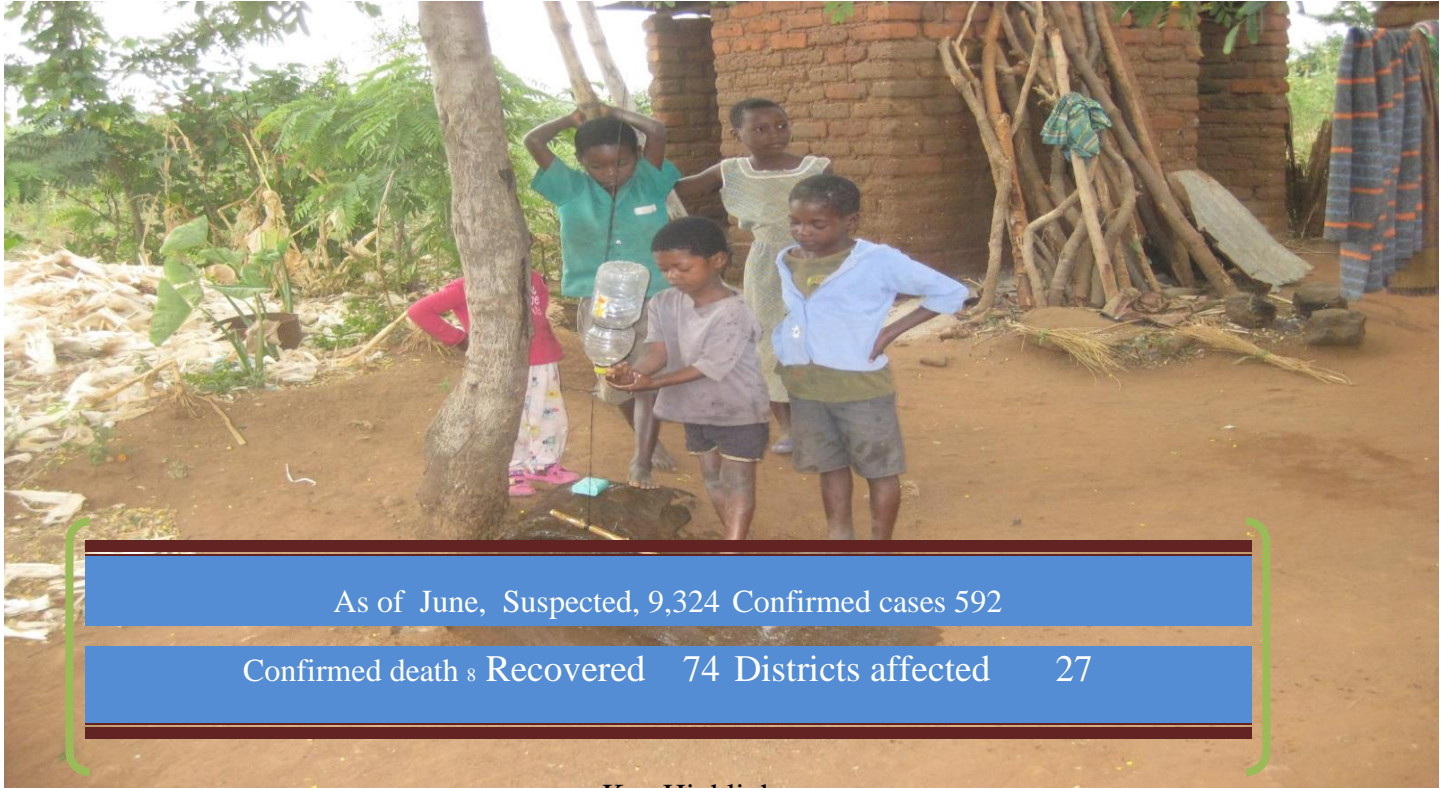


Cynthia Magombo celebrating her work After completing tailoring training.
Photos : Lesley Kapile CHICOSUDO



Tiwasamale CBO Chairman witnessing the work of Yamican who is running his business after completing Computer training

2.4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR COVID19



Key Highlights

- The Government of Malawi has completed recruitment and deployment of 750 health workers out of the planned 2,000 to strengthen the health system and response to COVID-19.
- A total of 79 traditional leaders from Blantyre rural have been oriented on their role in the community mobilization for COVID-19. Traditional Leaders have now started to engage community members in their respective communities.
- Community mobilization sessions, door to door awareness campaigns through community structures including Village Development Committee, youth clubs have, so far, reached about 6,587 people with COVID-19 messages through social *and behavior change communication activities materials*.

Situation Overview

As of 17 June, 9,324 suspected, 592 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Malawi with 8 deaths and 74 recoveries. The 592 cases are distributed in 27 districts across Malawi: Blantyre being of the epicenter of COVID-19 cases. More cases are confirmed from people who traveled from other

countries and only few cases are reported to have been locally transmitted.

Cases of COVID-19 are high among persons of 19-30 years followed by those of 31-45. So far, there is no reported case in the under-five age group. The

Recoveries are well distributed in all age groups while most deaths have been recorded in one age group (46 – 60 years). Comparison between males and females shows that more cases have been registered among males compared to the females.

CHICOSUDO Support

CHICOSUDO in partnership with Fountain of Hope and Rock flower through emergency fund contributed USD 5000 for implementation of response approaches. The support will include water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, health, education, end child marriage efforts and strengthening risk communication and community engagement. This brings the number of

CHICOSUDO supported districts to a total of 2: Blantyre and Mulanje.

Health

CHICOSUDO continues to advocate for child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention by working with community structures including traditional leaders, faith leaders and clan heads. Our focus is to ensure that adolescence girls are free from early marriages. To ensure that adolescence girls are protected from early pregnancy, we are providing sexual reproductive health information through door to door approach. So far 15 clubs have been established composed of 8 to 12 members in Blantyre rural and Mulanje.



Disseminating COVID 19 prevention messages at GVH Manes Kapeni, Blantyre. Photos; Memory CHICOSUDO



Youth Clubs at Maluwa Village in Blantyre
Picture: Lesley – CHICOSUDO

Education

Schools in Malawi remain closed. No date has yet been suggested for reopening. CHICOSUDO is working with communities to promote basic education of children of



Caregivers at Maluwa Village providing basic education to children. Picture Lesley CHICOSUDO

Between 3 to 10 years. CHICOSUDO uses Community Based Volunteers to provide home based education so that children should continue remembering numerals and able to read. In addition to that, CHICOSUDO mobilize the communities to encourage their children to listen to education program which is conducted by Malawi Government on Radio 1.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
 CHICOSUDO uses Community Based Volunteers, youth clubs, Area Development Committees, Village Development Committees and CBO members to reach households with information related to WASH, installation of Tip Taps, distribution

of soap and Hand Washing pails. So far we have reached a total of 6,587 people with WASH-related messages. Of these, about 2,744 are children under 18 years, and a total of 3,843 are adults. The approaches include the use of hand washing demonstration at household level.



Elderly testing hand washing in Mulanje - Photo Lesley CHICOSUDO



CHICOSUDO Executive Director Mr Mulole presenting water bucket at Manes Kapeni in Blantyre- Picture Lesley CHICOSUDO

Communication for Development

- 79 traditional leaders from Blantyre and Mulanje have been oriented on their role in the community mobilization for COVID-19. Our emphasis was to enable them get first

hand information and empower them with information to get prepared. The leaders have started to engage their people.

- Programs are underway to develop Chichewa videos on COVID 19.



Awareness campaign at Manes Kapeni in Blantyre and Ntonya village in Mulanje. Photo Memory CHICOSUDO

2.5. RESEARCH ON CLEAN COOKING



Christopher with participants during research at Group Village Headman Chiwalo . Photo - CHICOSUDO

Background

Clean cooking technologies have greater benefits in the efforts of protecting environment in the country and the world over. This is why Malawi government and organizations both national and international, are striving to introduce new technologies to ensure each households have enough knowledge so that they can adopt them. However adoption rate remain low.

This is why in August 2019 CHICOSUDO in partnership with Christopher Walsh from Manchester University conducted a research aiming at assessing knowledge and usability of clean cooking technologies among households in Blantyre rural especially in group village heads Kumponda, Chiwalo, Pasani and Manes Kapeni under Senior Chief Kapeni. In Mulanje, research was conducted group village heads, Ntonya, Matwika, Mandanda and Chilembwe under Traditional Authority Nkanda. Samples of 350 households were selected by the community and in-depth interviews were administered.



CHICOSUDO Board of Trustee talks with Chris



Christopher with participants during interviews at Manes Kapeni, Blantyre

Photo. Lesley - CHICOSUDO

Key findings

95% of respondent showed greater knowledge in the available clean cooking technologies which include: Chitetezo Mbaula, some reasons for using Chitetezo Mbaula, include: use of few wood, they cook food faster than three stone, less flames and clean.

Usability was 45% among those who stay in the villages while those who stay in per urban, was higher at 75%. The reason being different is the cost and availability of Chitetezo Mbaula, channel of information dissemination. In urban areas they get information through Televisions, social media and outreach campaigns while in the rural areas it's through wireless and outreach campaigns which are run at random. Other reasons their economic levels. In the community with high levels of poverty, many households fail to buy one while in per urban households; they are able to buy one due to their levels of economy. Many producers / manufactures sale Chitetezo Mbaula for the cost of MWK 2,500 to 5,000.

Adoption rate remain very low, at the time despite having knowledge on the importance of clean cooking, only 25% had one and most of them responded that they use it 3 to 6 times per week. The reason mentioned that they keep it so that it can last longer because they don't know where they can get one after it breaks. The communities were looking of the availability and cost.

It was also reviewed that over 79% of responses were especially women, the usability of Clean cooking method were influenced by men. If they want to cook faster, they use Chitetezo Mbaula.

Based on the results, it clearly shows that despite their increased knowledge, but availability, access to information, costs and influence are some of the factors that affect adoption rate.

1. FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE FOR POOR HOUSEHOLDS

In the period of July 2019 to June 2020, CHICOSUDO assisted 100 poor families affected and infected by HIV and AIDS from group village headman Kumponda, Traditional Authority Kapeni in Blantyre to harvest rain water for watering in the vegetable garden. In addition to that, they adopted the system of growing crops in the bags around their homes for food and for sale. 78 Poor families in and surrounding villages had benefited from Chapala irrigation scheme where each family has a piece of landha to cultivate crops ranging from maize and vegetables. These initiatives have enabled these families meet their required nutritious food needs and generate incomes from the sales of crops.



Anny Williams from Mpira village, group village headman Kumponda, Traditional Authority Kapeni, Blantyre Malawi, is one of the beneficiary who have benefited from sustainable agriculture garden in Bags programme. She is an orphan living with her grandmother and two young sisters and one brother. They harvest rain water and use for watering vegetables in bags in their fence. She generates incomes from the sales of vegetable which she used for buying household daily needs at home.

Pic by: Lesley Kapile. (Programs officer)

PARTNERS

We have seen the increase in partnerships this year. The following are the partners:

- a. Rock flower
- b. Lush Charity Pot
- c. Chezuba
- d. Abwenzi Tractor and General Dealers
- e. Lesaka Enterprise
- f. Rosca Enterprise
- g. IPAG

Membership organizations

- a. Malawi Scotland Partnership (MASP)
- b. Girls Not Brides
- c. Gender Prevention Network
- d. WCC
- e. Malawi Network of Aids Service Network (MANASO)
- f. Civil Society Nutrition Alliance

PLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

According to the achievements, progress, lessons learnt and challenges encountered, FOHOP and CHICOSUDO have lined up the following activities for 2020/2021.

- Contributing to the improvement of education standards for children and youth to enable them gain skills to maximize their potential productive capacities to improve their socio-economic development.
- To promote livelihood for local farmers by strengthening their capacities to increase crop and animal production in the era of climate change.
- To promote access to water, sanitation, hygiene, education and health care among marginalized people.
- To promote and protect the rights of marginalized groups include: women, girls, children, people living with HIV and AIDS, elderly and people with physical disabilities.
- Contributing to epidemics prevention, care and support among the infected and affected people.