



## MTCHEMBERE GIRLS LEAD THE WAY IN HIV PREVENTION AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Mtchembere, Traditional Authority Mlilima, are leading transformative change through an HIV prevention and economic empowerment initiative. Supported by Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Malawi and funded by the Global Fund via World Vision Malawi, the three-year project (2024–2027) targets AGYW aged 15–29 across 14 Traditional Authorities in Chikwawa District, aiming to reduce HIV transmission and gender-based violence.

Peer Educator Stelliah Mzumala mentors two clubs of 40 at-risk girls each, conducting weekly sessions on HIV prevention, life skills, and gender-based violence. To sustain engagement and foster financial independence, the girls initiated a Village Savings and Loans (VSL) scheme, drawing on Stelliah's prior experience. Additionally, they cultivated a one-acre sweet potato farm, expecting to earn K500,000, a breakthrough toward economic self-reliance.

Stelliah highlights the dual impact: "We're learning to protect ourselves while securing our futures through farming, preventing us from risky behaviours" The project collaborates with local committees and organizations to create safe spaces for AGYW, demonstrating how education and entrepreneurship can drive health and economic progress.

The initiative highlights the power of community-led solutions in combating HIV and empowering young women.





## DAPP'S TRIO TEACHING METHOD YIELDS 90% PASS RATE



Judith Panulo, a teacher at Kachere 1 Primary School in Mulanje District, Malawi, has transformed her classroom using the Trio System, an innovative teaching method she learned through the DAPP 400 Primary Schools Programme. This approach fosters students to organize themselves in groups of three and work collaboratively in solving various academic tasks. This has led to remarkable results as 90% of her Standard Seven learners passed their 2024 exams, a significant improvement from previous years.

With Malawi's rural schools often facing overcrowded classrooms (teacher-pupil ratios exceeding 1:60), Judith highlights how the Trio System eases management, boosts engagement, and ensures personalized support for each student. Beyond academics, she integrates practical skills like school vegetable farming, improving nutrition, environmental awareness, and attendance.



Her efforts have reduced dropout rates and nurtured confident learners, proving that innovative teaching can overcome challenges in under-resourced schools. Judith's story demonstrates how dedicated educators can reshape academic outcomes and strengthen communities through adaptable, learner-centered methods.

## INSTILLING HOPE IN YOUNG WOMEN: THE STORY OF ALINAFE CHAYIMA



Alinafe Chayima, a 22-year-old mother of twins from Baluti Village, Malawi, overcame immense hardship after an early pregnancy led to financial struggles. Her life changed when she joined DAPP Malawi's DREAMS Club, which provides young women with education on family planning, HIV prevention, and financial skills.

Selected for a livestock pass-on program, Alinafe received piglets, enabling her to start a small piggery. With hard work, she now owns two piglets in a well-built pen and has expanded into a tomato business, using savings from her village savings group. Her average capital of MK100,000 helps her provide for her daughters, ensuring they are well-fed and educated.

Once struggling in poverty, Alinafe's story reflects resilience and transformation—thanks to the DREAMS Project, funded by PEPFAR through the U.S. CDC. Her journey from despair to stability shows how targeted support can empower young women, offering them hope and economic independence. Today, she is building a more secure future, proving that with determination and the right opportunities, lasting change is possible.

Her success highlights the power of community programs in breaking cycles of poverty and inspiring others to pursue a brighter path.

