

DEVELOPMENT AID FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Youth Trained in Agri-Business

40 young people at DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School in Chiradzulu District have been trained in agri-business skills aimed at empowering them to engage in farming as a business in order to improve their livelihoods.

Speaking during the recent graduation ceremony held at the campus, the school's principal, Charles Salema, said that the trained youth will help in complementing government's efforts in achieving the Malawi 2063 Agenda.

"As you know, one of the pillars of the Malawi Vision 2063 is to promote agricultural productivity and commercialization. We believe that these well-trained youths will help to contribute in achieving this pillar through various agri-business activities they will engage in after the graduation," he said.



One of the graduates, Loveness Mtambalika of Mkumba Village, Traditional Authority Kadewere in the same district, commended DAPP Mikolongwe vocational school and GIZ for the initiative and emphasised that the youth should embrace the concept as a way of becoming self-reliant and productive.

The graduated students have been trained in edible horticulture under the Empowering Youth in Agribusiness and EYA-ATVET for Women Project funded by GIZ.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME



Eneless Chibwana, a resident of Ngalawisa village, Traditional Authority Sandreck in Chiradzulu district, enrolled in the Families Matter! Programme as a mother of four daughters. Initially hesitant to broach sensitive topics with her children, Eneless found significant support and guidance through the program. After completing seven weeks of training, she noticed a remarkable shift in her family dynamics.

"My approach towards discussing HIV and AIDS, GBV, and relationships with my daughters has completely changed," she shared. "Previously, they would leave the house without informing us of their whereabouts, but now they seek permission and share more openly with us."

Eneless emphasised the programme's impact on her daughters' knowledge and decision-making skills regarding sexual and reproductive health. "They now possess critical information that helps them make informed choices and understand the consequences of risky behaviours."

The *Families Matter!* Program, is a parent-focused intervention designed to promote positive parenting and effective parent-child communication about sexuality and sexual risk reduction, including risk for child sexual abuse and gender-based violence. It is one of the components of the DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) project supported by PEPFAR.

DAPP MALAWI'S CLOTHES AND SHOES PROJECT IMPRESSES FINNISH PARTNER



The UFF Finland has applauded DAPP Malawi's Fundraising Project- also known as DAPP Second Hand Project - for contributing to the country's economic growth and improving the living standards of Malawians.

UFF Finland's Managing Director, Virve Groning, expressed these sentiments during her visit to DAPP Malawi's clothes Sorting Centre at Maselema in Blantyre. The visit aimed to appreciate the facility's operations and how they support DAPP in implementing its national development projects.

Ms Virve Groning expressed satisfaction with the employees at the centre and from all second-hand clothes and shoes wholesale and retail shops, noting that their efforts have helped DAPP rapidly grow its network and social development programmes nationwide.

She said, "What we have seen is that DAPP Malawi has a dedicated workforce, the organisation is well organised, customer engagement and feedback are actively sought after. This improves service delivery and customer satisfaction."

DAPP Malawi's Country Director, Moses Chibwana, described the tour as fruitful and thanked UFF Finland for supporting the Fundraising Project. The fundraising project sells second-hand clothes and shoes in 12 wholesale and 18 retail shops across Malawi. Profits realised from the fundraising project support implementation of DAPP Malawi's agriculture, education, health, community development, and environmental projects that benefit over 1 million vulnerable people every year.

UFF Finland is a member of the Federation Humana People to People, just like DAPP Malawi.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS APPLAUD DAPP-FARMSE PROJECT

Community members in Zomba, Phalombe, Chikwawa, and Nsanje districts have applauded DAPP Malawi and the government for tremendous efforts in poverty reduction and enhancing resilience among rural households through the "Poverty reduction of vulnerable beneficiaries through Community Based Financial Organization Support (CBFO) and small scale enterprise development" Project.

Speaking during recent field supervision, one of the participants from Zomba district, Rose Alafati, commended the project saying that it has led to a gradual improvement of her family's living condition.

"The inception of the project in our area has deepened my understanding and application of financial management in my daily life. For instance, by taking part in our community Village Savings and Loans (VSL) group, I have managed to achieve



remarkable things in life. With the help of my savings, access to affordable loans, and other financial literacy initiatives acquired from our microfinance group, I have managed to engage in agribusiness and construct a decent house for my family," Alafati said.

DAPP Malawi, together with the Malawi government through the Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders, and Enterprises (FARMSE) Programme under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, is implementing the PROVED Project. The objective of the project is to sustainably increase the income and assets of over 37,000 households in the four mentioned districts through community-based financial organisations (CBFOs).

