

FROM STAGNATION TO PROGRESS – THE CASE OF MVIVI CBFO

The power of women's entrepreneurship and leadership cannot be overstated. It has the potential to address numerous challenges, including fostering financial independence and implementing innovative climate change solutions. The journey of Mvivi Community-Based Financial Organization (CBFO), an inspiring all-women group from Traditional Authority Katunga in Chikwawa District, exemplifies this transformative potential.

From Humble Beginnings to a Structured Path: Founded in 2015, Mvivi CBFO was inspired by the success of other community CBFOs. Despite their determination, the group initially struggled due to a lack of proper financial guidance and support. It was not until 2022, when the group was enrolled in the Poverty Reduction of Vulnerable Beneficiaries and Small-scale Enterprise Development (PROVED) Project under FARMSE through DAPP Malawi that they began to see meaningful change.

Before joining the PROVED Project, Mvivi CBFO's activities were centred on smallscale farming and businesses. However, their combined annual revenue never exceeded One Million Kwacha, limiting the growth of both the group and its members.

The Turning Point: In 2022, the group underwent comprehensive training that included essential financial management skills such as record-keeping and the importance of having a shared vision. Additionally, they learned about integrating business into Village Savings and Loans (VSL), climate change



mitigation strategies, and nutrition concepts. Armed with this knowledge, the group began to flourish. In the same year, their cumulative share capital surged to One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Kwacha.

Building a Thriving Enterprise: Today, Mvivi CBFO is a model of success and determination. The group has expanded its farming business, cultivating a larger rice field that is projected to yield over One Million Kwacha in revenue from a 500,000 Kwacha investment. They've also diversified their ventures by growing vegetables for both consumption and sale, generating over 100,000 Kwacha monthly through activities like phone charging and selling baobab juice.

The group's financial contributions have doubled, with shares increasing from 500 Kwacha to 1,000 Kwacha per member. By 2024, Mvivi CBFO's total investments had surpassed Three Million Kwacha, marking a remarkable turn-around from its early challenges.

Mvivi CBFO's journey from stagnation to progress showcases the profound impact of targeted support and skills development. It stands as a shining example of how empowering women can unlock untapped potential, drive economic growth, and create lasting change.



DAPP MIKOLONGWE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL INNOVATIONS IMPRESS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE



The Parliamentary Committee on Education, Science, and Technology has commended DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School in Chiradzulu District for implementing sustainable innovations that align with Malawi's long-term development vision, Malawi 2063.

Following a tour of the school's facilities and various departments, the committee's Vice-Chairperson, Ephraim Nayeja, expressed enthusiasm about the courses being offered.

"As a parliamentary committee, we will advocate for increased funding to technical colleges through the Technical, Entrepreneurial, Vocational and Education Training Authority (TEVETA) levy to ensure these institutions function effectively," he stated.

Nayeja further highlighted the significance of the school's shoemaking course, emphasizing the need to expand such initiatives nationwide.

TEVETA Board Chairperson, Pyoka Tembo, further applauded the institution as a model private college that has collaborated with TEVETA since 2007. He noted that the college has played a critical role in bridging the skills gap among young people in Malawi.

Established in 1997, DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School has so far trained over 14,500 students in various technical and vocational skills.

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DAPP COLLABORATES WITH ZOMBA CITY COUNCIL IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

As part of commitment to environmental conservation, DAPP Malawi through its Second-hand Clothes and Shoes Project, also known as Fundraising Project, recently collaborated with the Zomba City Council in a tree planting exercise along the Zomba-Blantyre Road.

DAPP Malawi, being present in Zomba City with its wholesale and retail shops, saw this as an opportunity to contribute to the city's greening efforts, reinforcing its dedication to fostering a cleaner and healthier environment and authorities believe that the initiative will be helpful.

Sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation is one of the key sectors of DAPP Malawi, alongside health, education and community development. The organisation believes that sustainable development is deeply connected to environmental responsibility. By actively participating in initiatives like tree planting, DAPP is not only supporting local authorities but also strengthening the resilience of communities against the effects of climate change and deforestation.



The partnership with Zomba City Council aligns with broader national and global efforts to promote sustainability and environmental restoration. Tree planting plays a vital role in enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. Through collective action, initiatives like these contribute significantly to building greener and more sustainable urban spaces.

DAPP Malawi's Second-hand Clothes and Shoes Project plays a vital role in the country by providing affordable second-hand garments to people, creating jobs and saving the planet from millions of tonnes of pollutants produced by textile industries when producing new garments.

