

TEACHERS URGED TO STRENGTHEN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION EFFORTS

More than 120 teachers under DAPP Malawi's 400 Primary Schools (teachers network) Program have been encouraged to champion inclusive education as a key step towards enhancing the quality of learning, particularly for students with special needs.

This call to action was made during a recent teaching and learning materials production meeting held at DAPP Chilangoma Teacher Training College (TTC) in Blantyre District. Speaking at the event, Alick Kabichi, a former DAPP TTC student and now a specialist teacher, emphasized the critical role teachers play in fostering inclusivity in their classrooms. "As a specialist teacher and a former DAPP TTC student, I encourage teachers to take the lead in inclusive education at their schools. As outlined in the National Strategy on Inclusive Education, this approach will boost enrollment, lower dropout rates, and enhance educational opportunities for marginalized children and youth." said Kabichi.



Held three times a year, these teaching and learning materials production meetings provide teachers with a platform to share experiences, knowledge and skills to improve learning environments in their schools.

The DAPP 400 Primary Schools Program is a long-term initiative that enables teachers who graduated from DAPP TTCs and are now teaching in government primary schools to collaborate and support each other in creating more inclusive and effective learning environments. Currently, the project works with over 210 primary school teachers across 26 districts nationwide.

TEACHER COMMENDS TRIO TASK SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING LEARNER PERFORMANCE

Josephine Chikoti, a teacher at Chisoka Primary School in Thyolo District, has commended the Trio Task System, a teaching methodology introduced by DAPP Malawi through its 400 Primary Schools Program.

Chikoti highlighted the positive impact of the methodology on learners' academic performance at her school. "I joined the 400 Primary Schools Program in 2014, and through this initiative, I have gained valuable skills, including the Trio Task System. Since implementing

this methodology at my school, learner performance has significantly improved, and other teachers have also adopted it," Chikoti said.

The Trio Task System allows students to organize themselves in groups of three and work collaboratively in solving various academic tasks. This approach empowers students to take ownership of their learning while fostering teamwork and a sense of collectivism.



COLLABORATION KEY TO SUSTAINABLE CLOTHES RECYCLING



DAPP Malawi's Clothes and Shoes Project recently strengthened ties with Blantyre-based Tikonze Apapa Foundation (TAF), which empowers Malawian youth with hearing impairments by providing training in tailoring and design. The collaboration aims to enhance partnerships in textile reuse while reinforcing DAPP Malawi's commitment to sustainable development.

This alliance happened after DAPP Malawi, TAF and Waste Advisers jointly announced an emerging approach to repurpose textiles through creative recycling. This collaborative model aims to prevent garment and material wastage by transforming second-hand textiles into reusable, high-value products.

During the visit, DAPP staff gained first-hand insight into TAF's approach, which combines creativity and skill development to repurpose second-hand fabrics. By turning them into valuable products, the foundation not only reduces wastage but also empowers young people with essential vocational skills, setting them on a path toward academic and personal growth.

DAPP Malawi's Head of Administration, Obert Makawa, expressed enthusiasm for the foundation's work, highlighting its role in promoting sustainability within the textile sector. "Seeing the dedication and innovation here reinforces our shared vision for sustainable development and the power of textile reuse," Makawa said.

TAF's Executive Director, Katiana LaFrance, hinted on their commitment to making a meaningful impact on the lives of young Malawians with hearing impairments. "We're proud to provide vocational training in innovative tailoring, helping youth create a future where their talents shine," she said. The foundation repurposes various second-hand garments into functional and stylish items like backpacks, laptop bags, handbags, and dresses.

The collaboration marks a step forward in creating a more sustainable Malawi, one that reduces waste and transforms lives by unlocking the potential of textile recycling and vocational empowerment.

HOW A VSLA TRANSFORMED EDSON'S LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD

Edson Chinunga, a 60-year-old farmer and businessman from Zomba District, defies the notion that Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) are only for women. Inspired by a women-led VSLA in his area, Edson joined the Changupamalo VSLA in 2023, supported by DAPP Malawi under the Poverty Reduction of Vulnerable Beneficiaries and Smallscale Enterprise Development (PROVED) Project. Through training on business, record-keeping, nutrition and climate resilience, he has transformed his approach to farming and finances.

Since joining, Edson has diversified from traditional farming to agribusiness and livestock production. He now owns 8 sheep, 6 goats, an agribusiness valued at over 1 million Kwacha, and he is building rental houses. "I joined the group at the right time and received the support I had been seeking. Through the peer education sessions with our club facilitator, I learned many valuable skills, including how to



operate a business and keep records for monitoring and evaluation. I also learned about embracing nutrition and health concepts within my family and implementing climate change adaptation measures by focusing on resilience activities to develop sustainable livelihoods."

Edson's success exemplifies the potential of VSLAs to empower both men and women towards economic growth and resilience.

DAPP Malawi, together with the Malawi Government through the Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders, and Enterprises (FARMSE), is implementing the PROVED Project. The aim is to sustainably increase the income and assets of over 37,000 households through Community-Based Financial Organisations (CBFOs).

